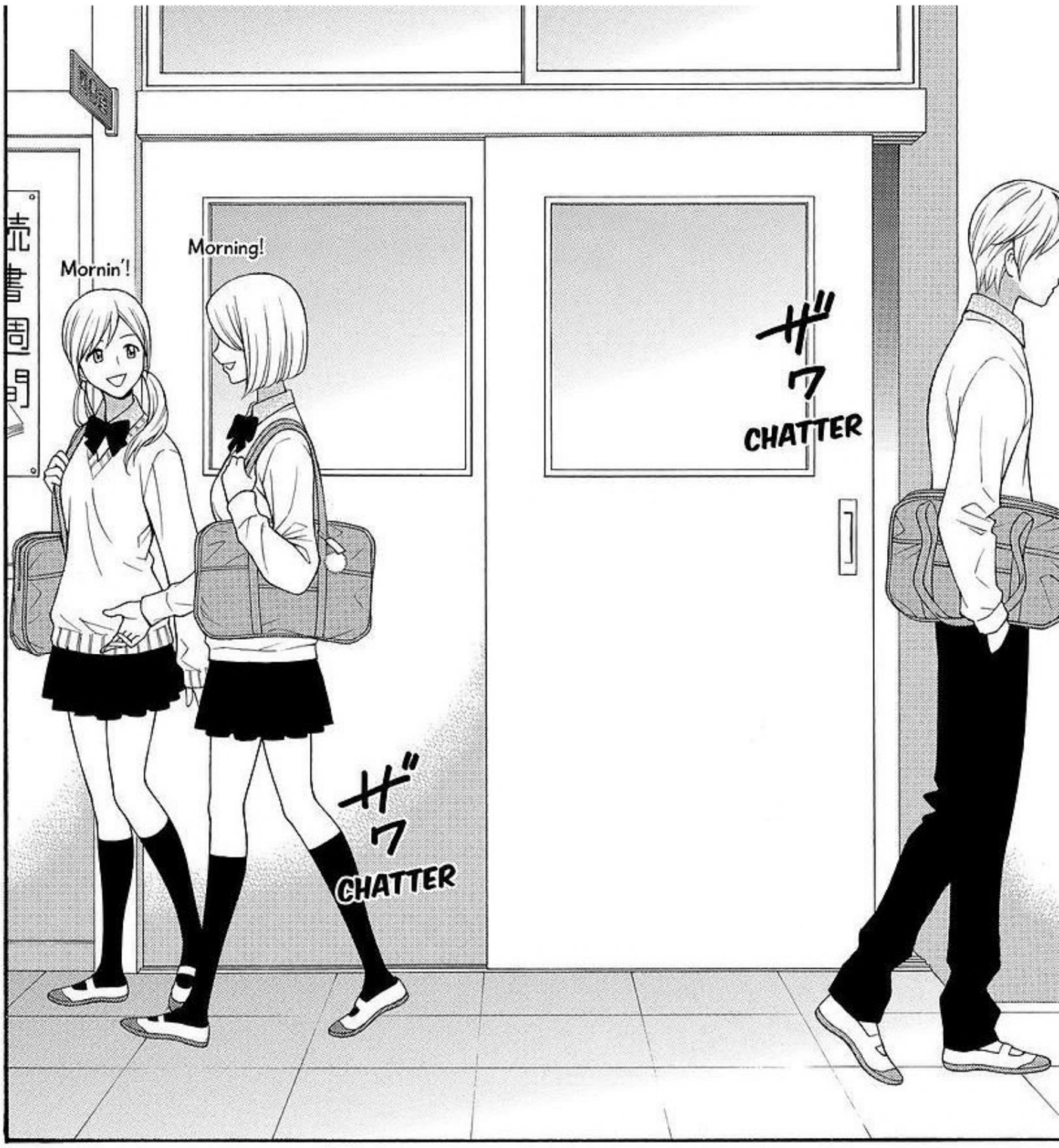
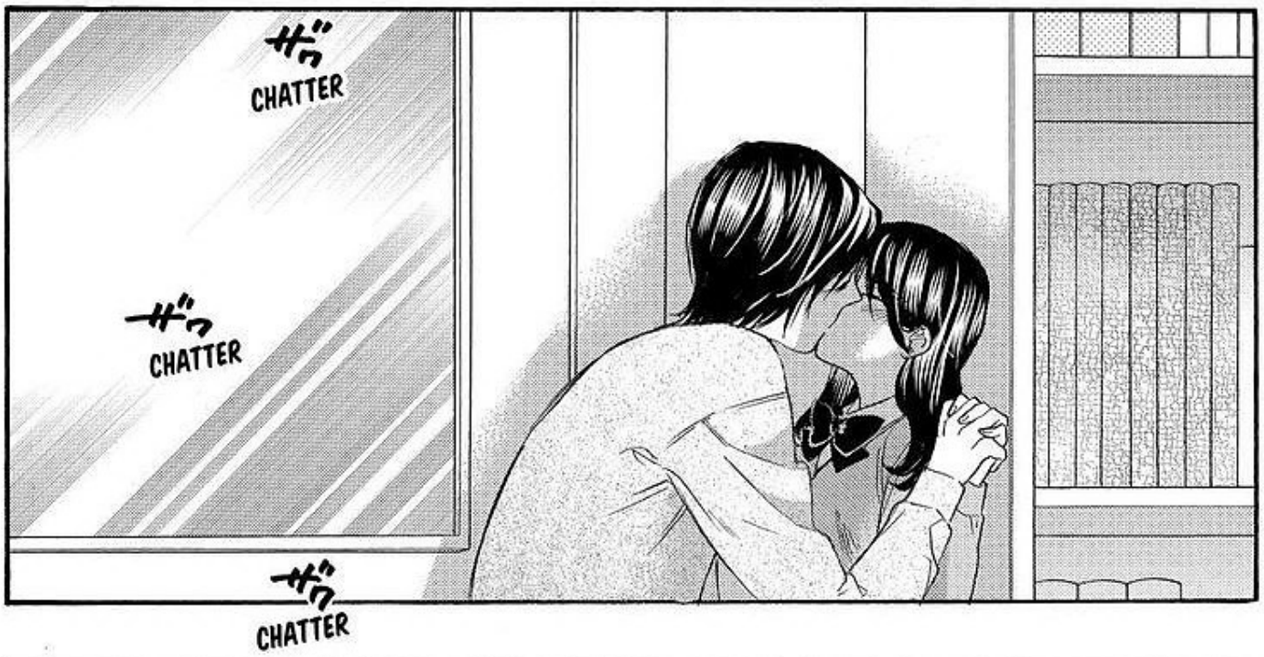
JUNKO
14
KISS HIM, NOT ME!

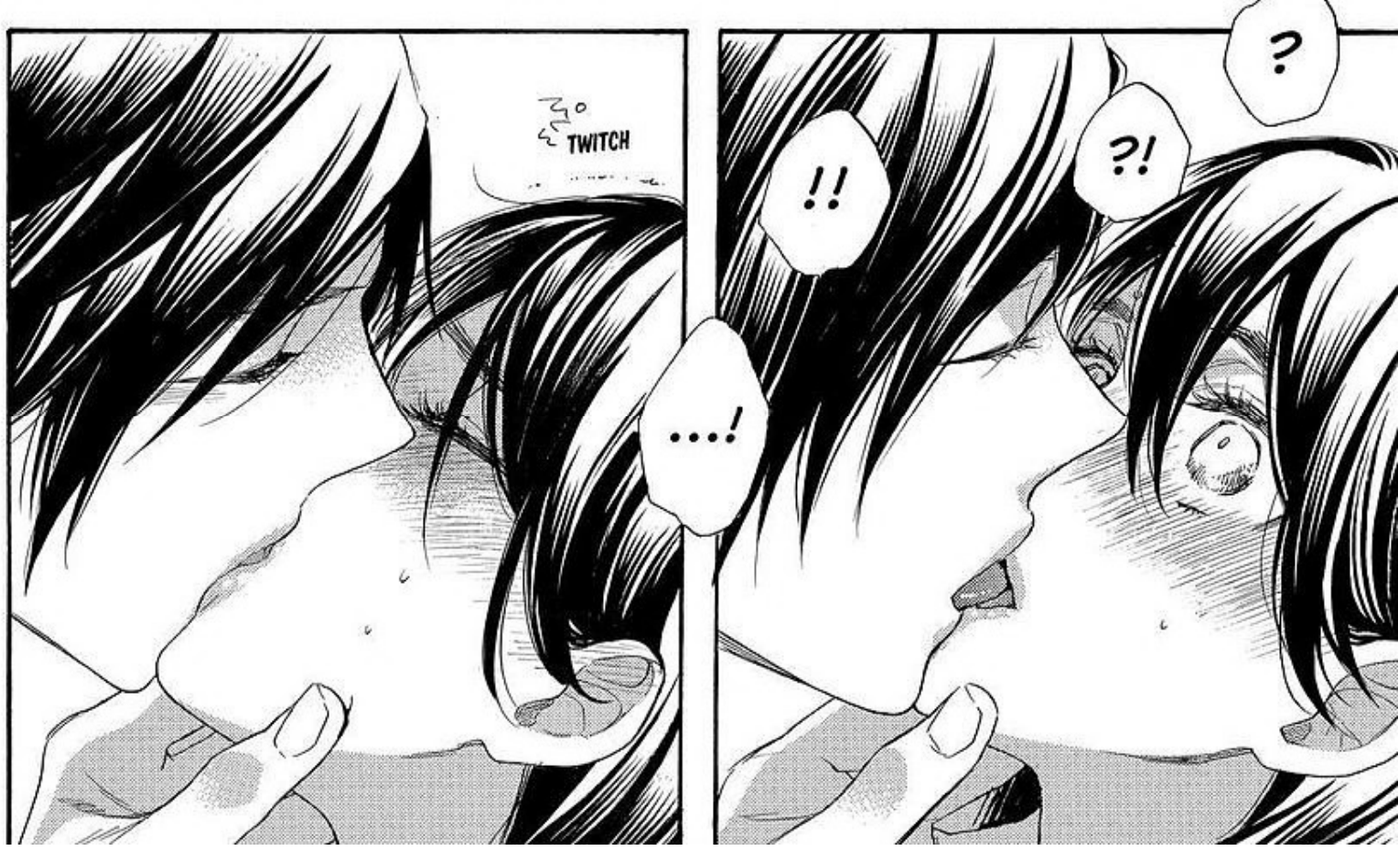
KISS HIM, NOT ME!
BY JUNKO
#53 TOGETHER FOREVER


Mornin'!
Morning!
ザワ
ザワ
CHATTER
ザワ
ザワ
CHATTER

CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER


CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER

?!
JOLT


TWITCH
?
?!
!!
...!

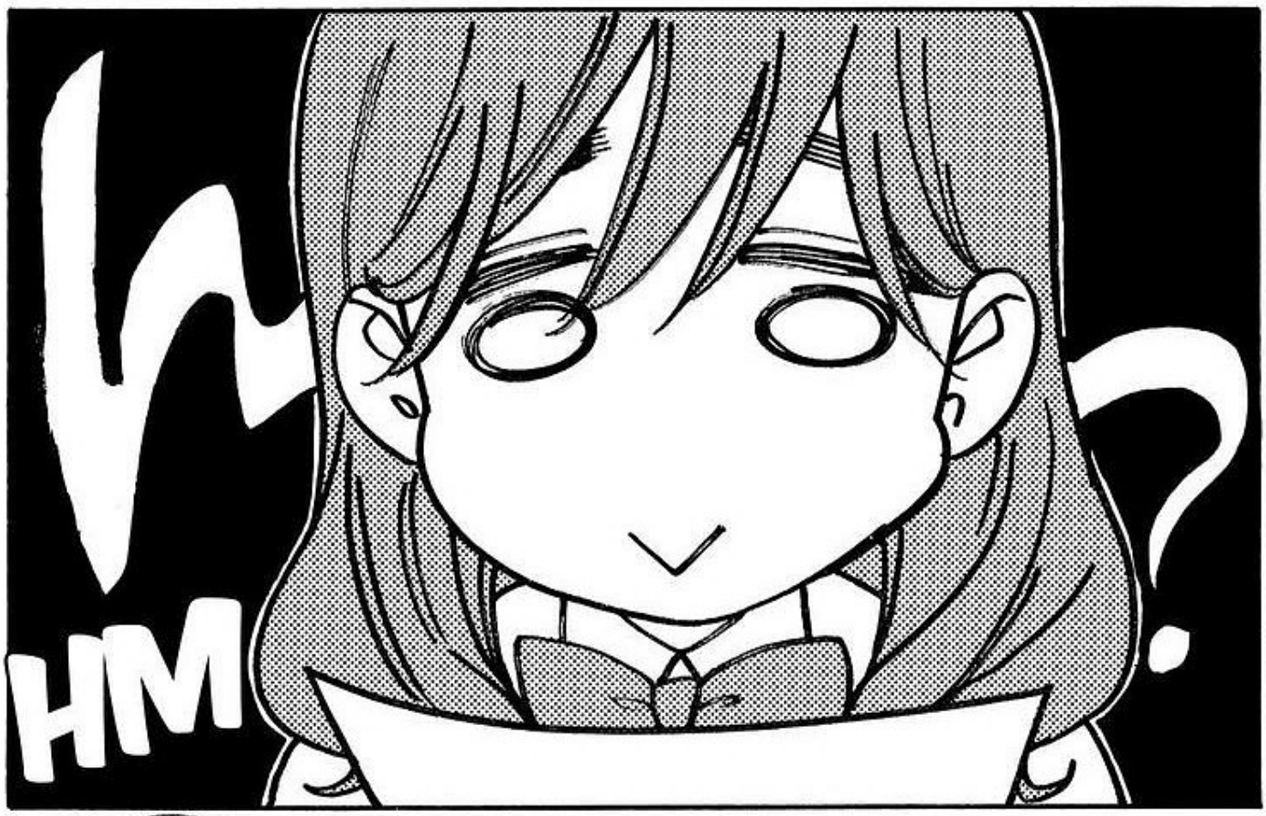
キーン
コーン
DING
DONG
カ"P"
CLATTER...
DONG
カーン
DANG
ぽっ
JUMP
コーン
DONG
OH.
キン
DING
コン
DONG
カン
DANG
コンッ
DONG
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH!
BLUSH
SH...
SHALL
WE?!
UH,
YEAH.

ぽわぁん
FLUSHED
I GOT REALLY INTO IT...
HOO BOY ...
2-A
I WILL PASS AROUND THE HAND-OUTS NOW.
SEN-PAI...
...IS QUITE AG-GRES-SIVE...
TH...
THAT WAS...
THAT WAS AMAZ-ING...

UH, UM, THE HAND-OUT...
NNN-NNN-NGH !!
!!
THUD
JOLT
I'LL JUST LEAVE IT THERE...

SO AMAZING...

FWIP
進路調査票
Post-secondary Survey
__年__組__番
氏名_____


HM?

HM?
WHAT? IS SOME-THING WRONG?
THE FALL... OF OUR SECOND YEAR...?

SIGH
はー
I GOTTA START THINKING ABOUT MY LIFE GOALS.
IT'S THAT TIME! WE ARE IN THE FALL OF OUR SECOND YEAR, AFTER ALL.

IT'S JUST...
I GUESS...
HAZE
HAZE
HAZE
MY MEMORY IS ALL JUMBLED...
WHA?

KABOOM
?!

KAE-CHAN? ARE YOU OKAY?
...

POST-SECON-DARY PLANS, HUH... I'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT...
YEAH ...
AND SOON THE THIRD YEARS ARE GONNA GRADU-ATE, TOO...
YEAH! GRADUATE... GRADUATE...

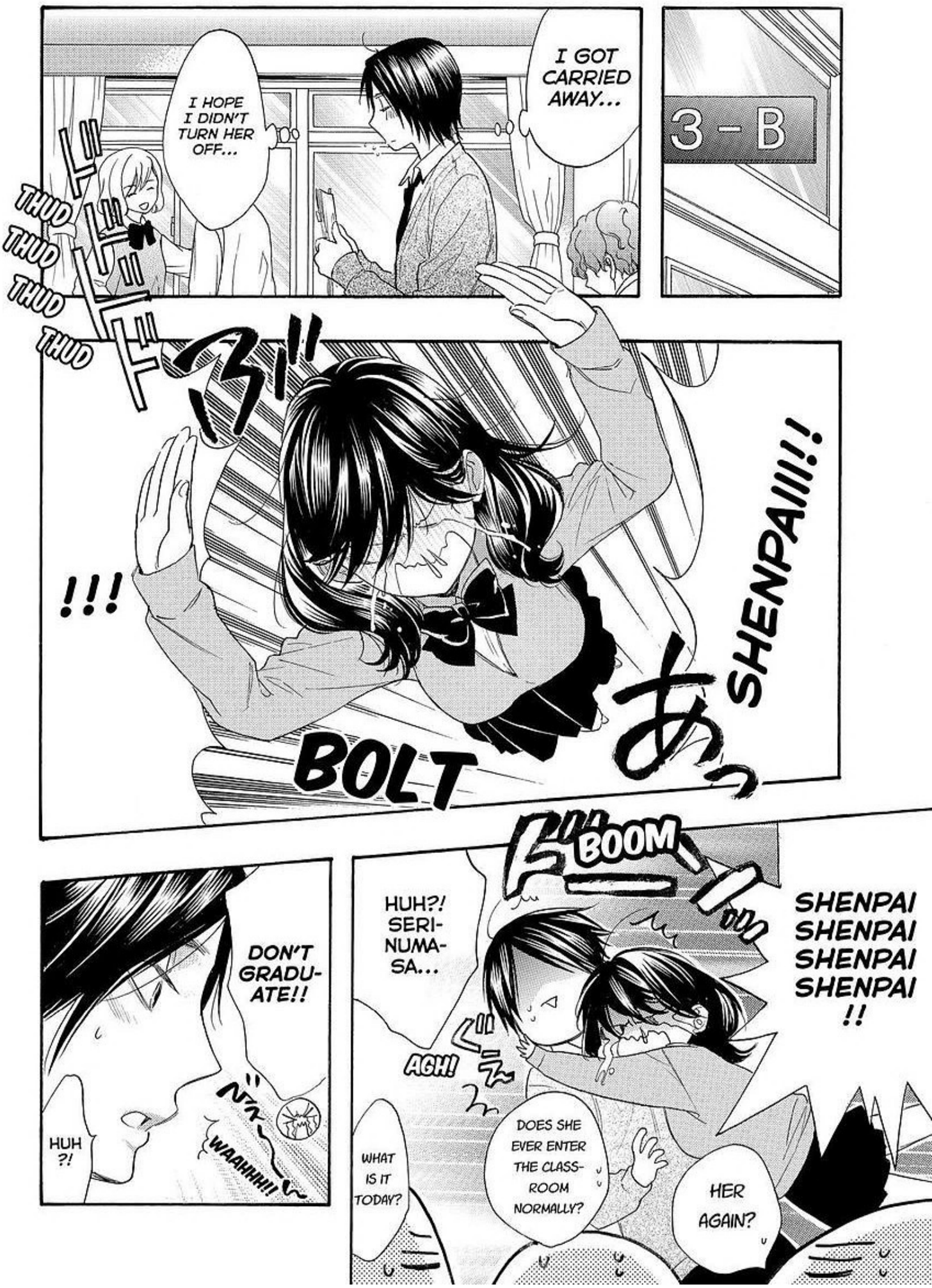
KAE DECIDED NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT!!
HEH HEH HEH
AH, WHAT-EVER!!

COME TO THINK OF IT, WHAT IS MUTSUMI-SENPAI GOING TO DO AFTER HE GRADUATES?
GRADUATE?

ME, TOO... HUH?
HUH...? I FEEL LIKE MY MEMORY IS ALL JUMBLED...

THE THIRD-YEAR STUDENTS WILL GRADUATE.
THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING.
SO, UH, THAT MEANS...
MUTSUMI-SENPAI...

HOW...
12
12
12
カチ
TICK
HOW COULD I FORGET?!


I GOT CARRIED AWAY...
I HOPE I DIDN'T TURN HER OFF...
3 - B
THUD THUD THUD THUD THUD
!!!
BOLT
あっ SHENPAIIII!!
BOOM
SHENPAI SHENPAI SHENPAI SHENPAI !!
HUH?! SERI-NUMA-SA...
AGH!
DOES SHE EVER ENTER THE CLASS-ROOM NORMALLY?
HER AGAIN?
WHAT IS IT TODAY?
DON'T GRADU-ATE!!
WAAHHH!!
HUH ?!

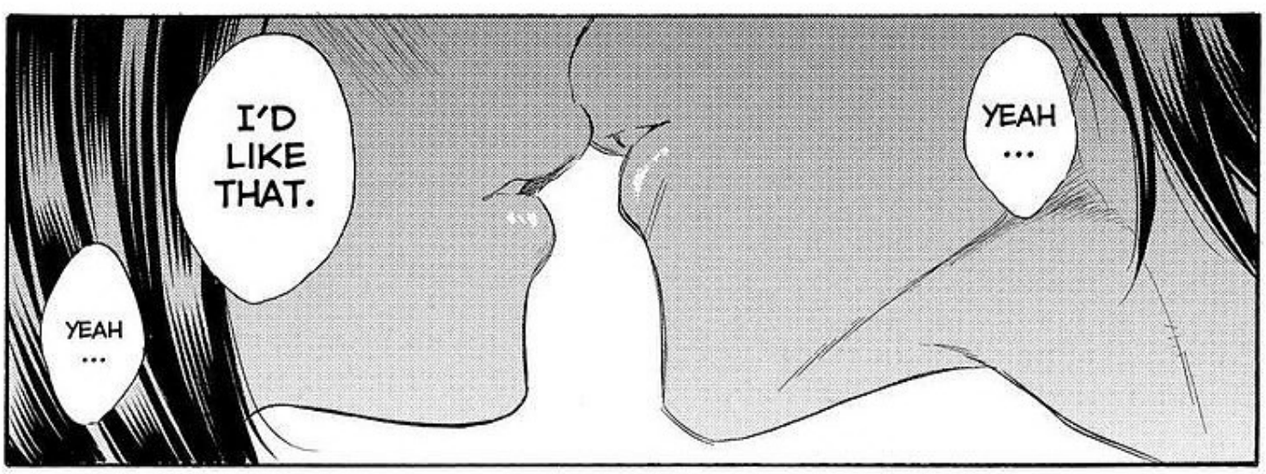
IS MUTSUMI REALLY OKAY WITH A GIRL LIKE HER...?
GULP
S... SERINUMA-SAN...
HOW 'BOUT WE GO SOME-WHERE PRIVATE?!
WAAHHH!
SOB
CHOMP
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.
S... SENPAI... I WAS THINKING...
YEAH?
HAVE YOU CALMED DOWN?
YESH.
DOES IT TASTE GOOD?
YESH.
Taming with food

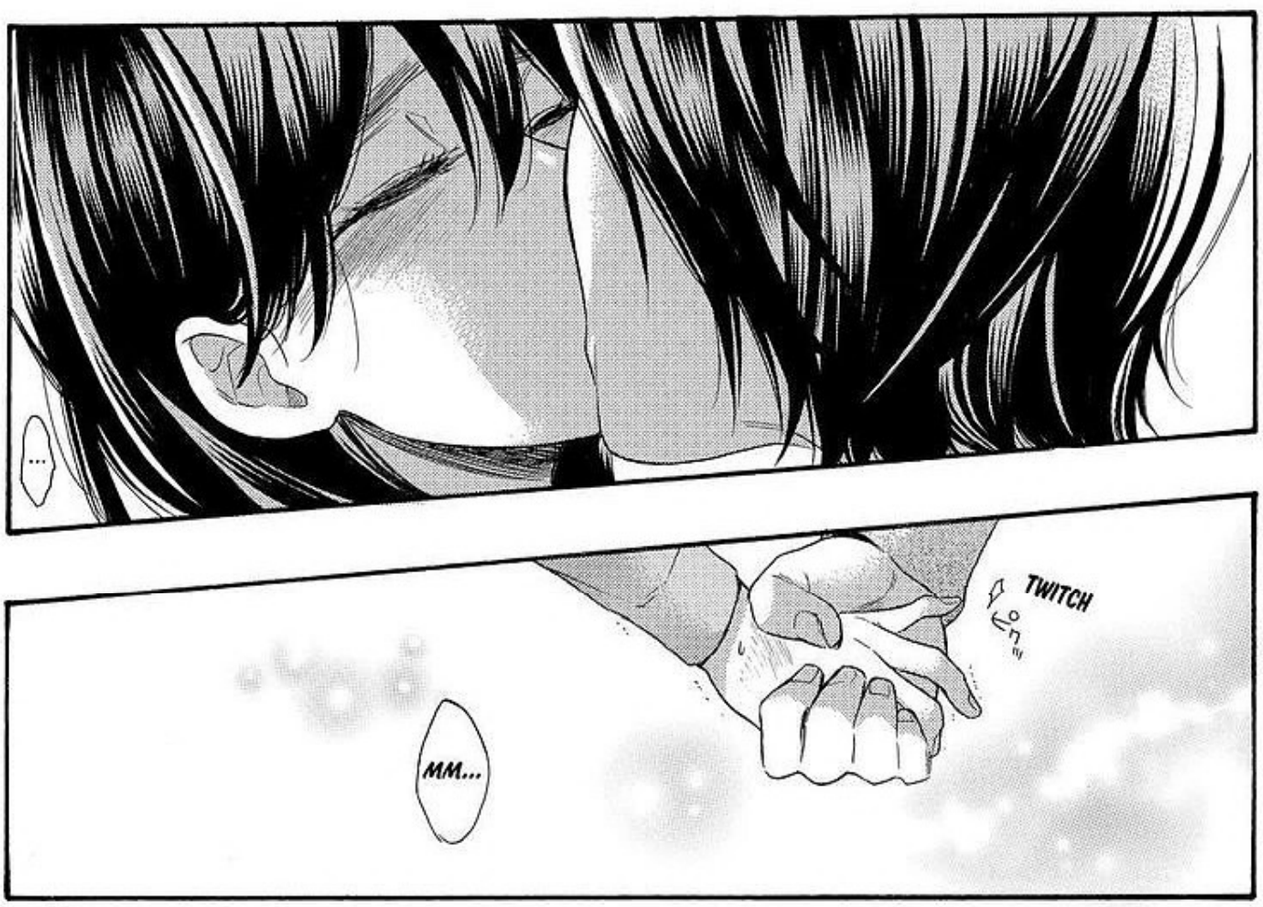
WHY DON'T YOU STAY BACK A YEAR?
ナイスアイデア!
NICE IDEA!!
AND THEN WE CAN GRADUATE TOGETHER NEXT YEAR!!
WHAT DO YOU SAY?!
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S STILL FREAKING OUT.
WHY DON'T YOU CALM DOWN? YOU WANT ANOTHER PASTRY?
Here! The next one has cream filling!
YESH.
GRADUATION...
YEAH...
I'M GONNA HAVE TO GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL.
U...UNTIL TODAY... I...I... KEPT THINKING WE'D BE IN SCHOOL TOGETHER FOREVER ...
SNIFF
TO BE HONEST, I FELT THE SAME WAY...
I WONDER WHY.
YEAH...

HEH HEH ...
HOW STRANGE.
YEAH, IT SURE IS!
EVEN IF YOU GRADU-ATE...
WE CAN STILL SEE EACH OTHER, RIGHT?
I'M SAD THAT YOU'LL BE GONE, SENPAI, BUT...
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'LL BE FAR, FAR AWAY.
I FREAKED OUT.
I'M SORRY.
DON'T BE.
SQUEEZE
キュッ
I'M SAD, TOO.
BUT TO BE HONEST, SERINUMA-SAN, I'M GLAD TO HEAR ...
... THAT YOU FEEL THAT WAY.

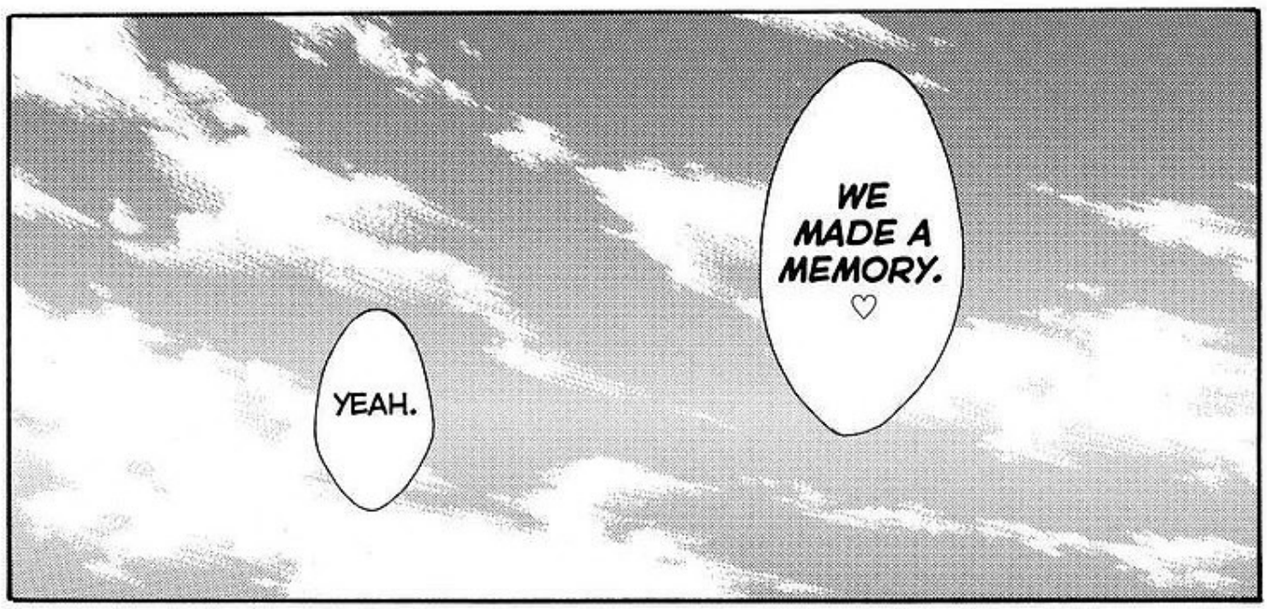
どきんっ
BADUMP
SHEN-PAI...
S...SINCE YOU'LL BE GRADUATING, I WANT TO MAKE MORE MEMORIES TOGETHER UNTIL THEN!
LET'S DO THAT!!
YEAH.
OKAY! THEN AS SOON AS SCHOOL'S OUT, WE'LL GO SOME-WHERE AND...
HOW 'BOUT NOW?
HUH?

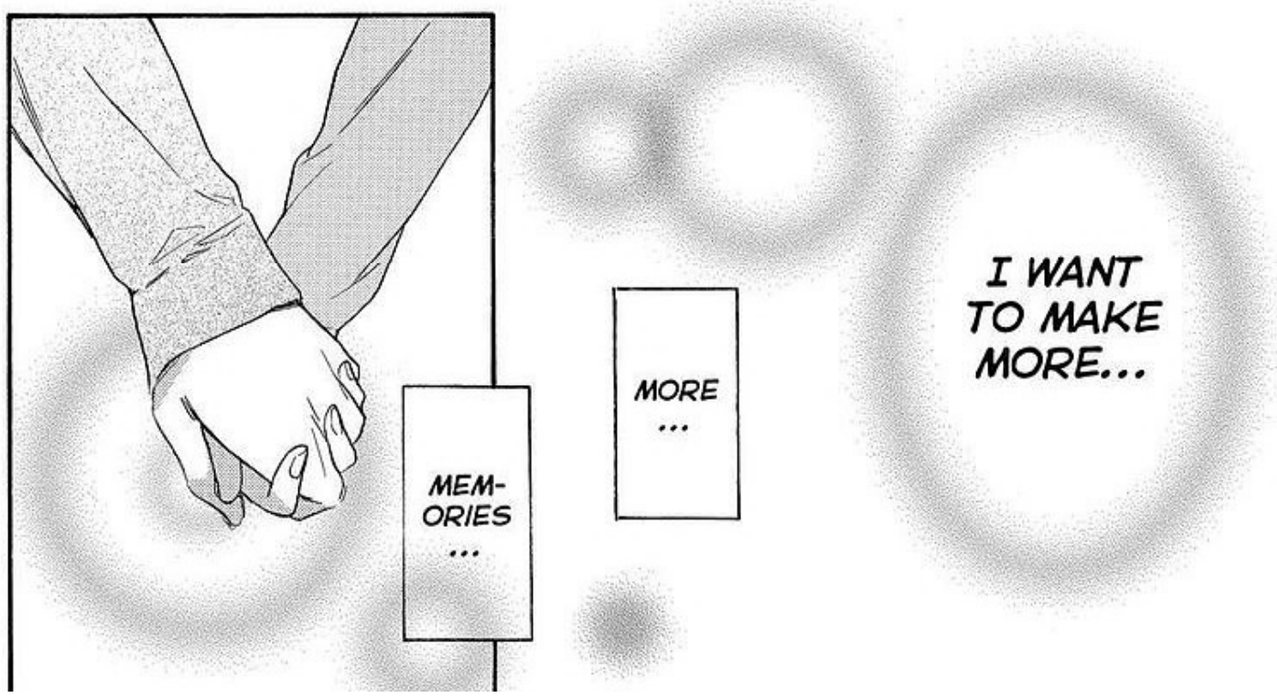
RIGHT HERE.
WHY NOT MAKE A MEMORY OF YOU BEING RIGHT HERE...
TMP
...WITH ME?


YEAH...
I'D LIKE THAT.
YEAH...


...
TWITCH
MM...

DANG
DONG
キーン
コーン
DING
DONG
はっ
GASP
HEH HEH.
THERE'S THE BELL AGAIN...
HA HA.

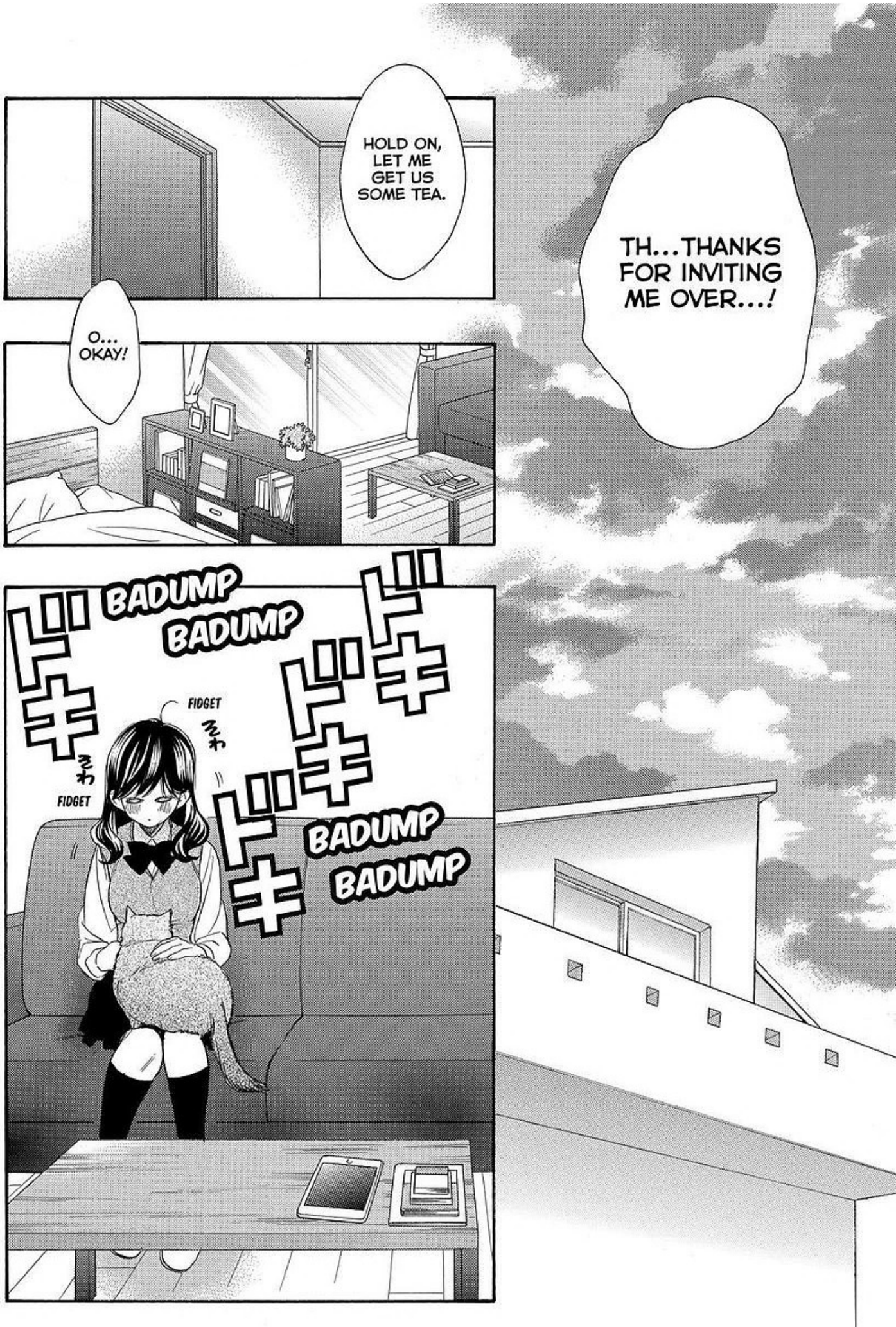

WE MADE A MEMORY. ♡
YEAH.


I WANT TO MAKE MORE...
MORE ...
MEM-ORIES ...

MEMORIES OF JUST US TWO...
MANY MORE OF THEM...
EEK! SOOO CUTE!!

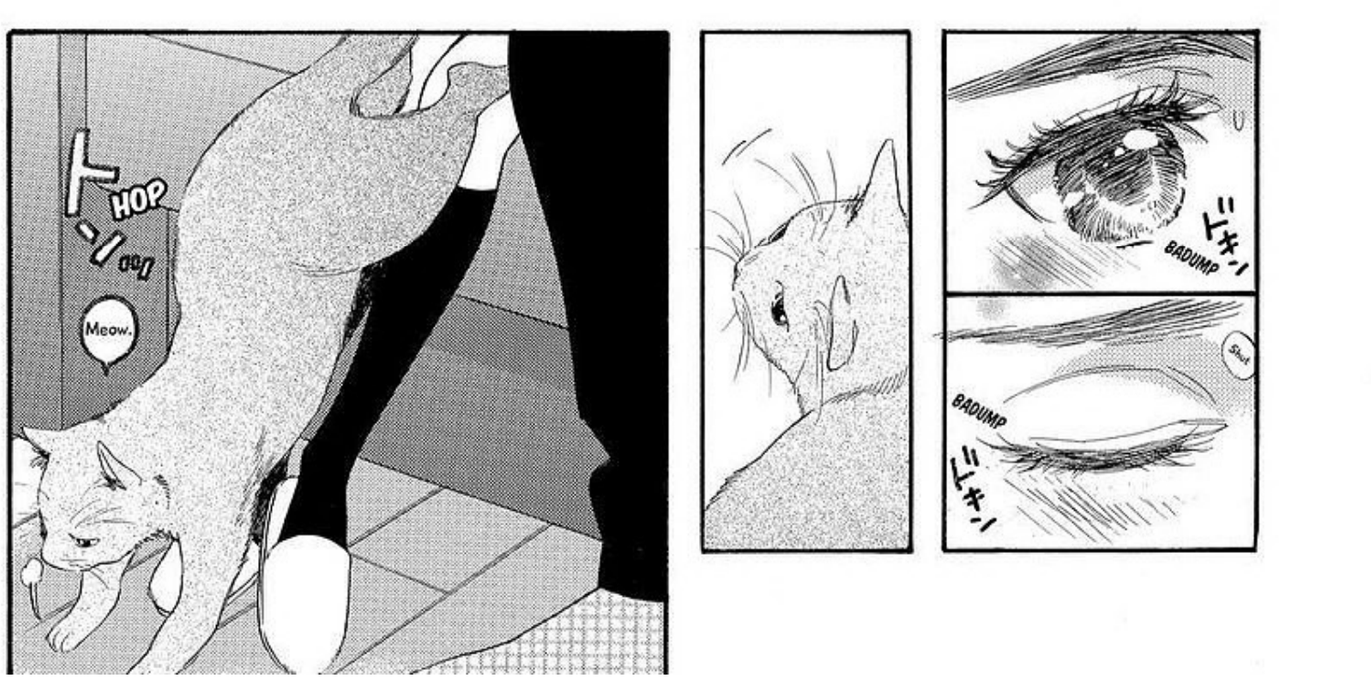
SHE'S SO CUTE.
I LOVE CATS, BUT MY BROTHER HAS A CAT ALLERGY, SO...
HUH? IS THAT SO?
YOU DON'T OFTEN SEE A CAT AT SCHOOL!
IT'S A CALICO, SO I GUESS IT'S A GIRL?
WELL...
IN THAT CASE...
WANNA COME OVER AND CHECK OUT MY CAT?
GASP!!!
HUH...?

DOES THAT MEAN...?
Am I overthinking it? Am I overthinking it?!
BADUMP
D...
BADUMP
HUH ...?
BADUMP
M...
MEAN-ING...
SENPAI'S PLACE...?
UH...
BOOM
YOU DON'T WANT TO...?


TH...THANKS FOR INVITING ME OVER...!
HOLD ON, LET ME GET US SOME TEA.
O... OKAY!
BADUMP
BADUMP
ドキ
ドキ
ドキ
ドキ
BADUMP
BADUMP
FIDGET
そわ
FIDGET

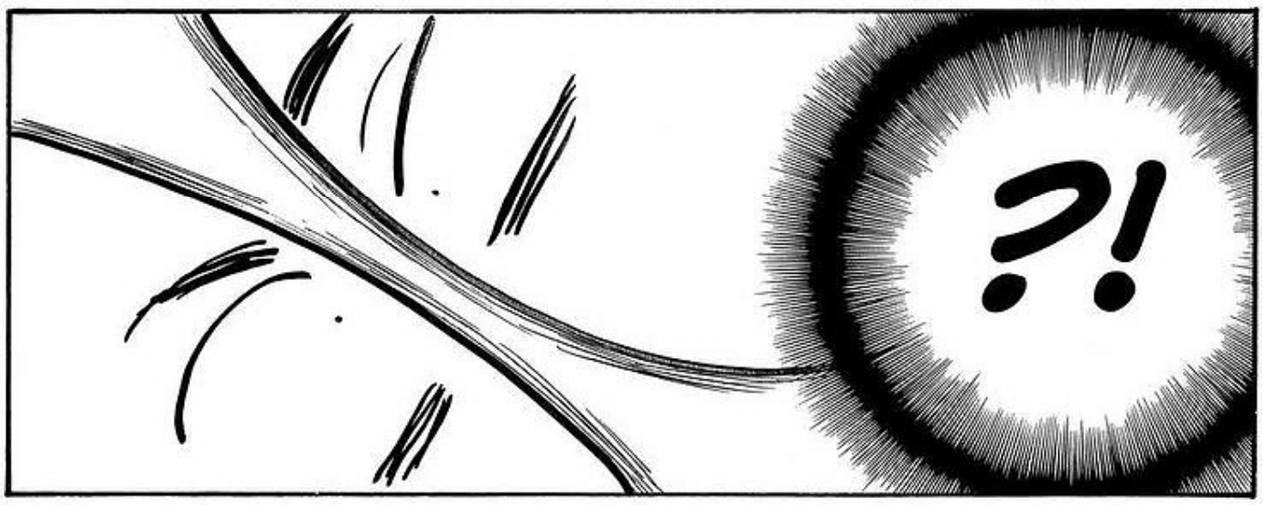
N... NO ONE'S HERE ...
BADUMP BADUMP BADUMP
ドキドキ
ドキドキ
TREMBLE
THIS IS... OUR CHANCE, RIGHT ...?
BADUMP BADUMP BADUMP
ドキドキ
ドキドキ
HEY!! THIS IS NO TIME TO BE TREM-BLING !!
BESIDES, I'M WEARING CUTE UNDERWEAR TODAY!
I'VE COME THIS FAR, SO I'M NOT GONNA BACK OUT!!
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
ドン ドン
HAH!
チャッ
KER-CHAK
SORRY TO KEEP YOU.
しーーーん...
SILENCE
Purr!
HERE YOU GO.
UH, THANK YOU.

Uh, let's see...
Purrrr
CHACHA-CHAN IS ADORABLE.
SHE'S SO FRIENDLY.
CHACHA'S ACTUALLY PRETTY SHY AROUND NEW PEOPLE AND KEEPS HER DISTANCE FROM THEM, Y'KNOW...
HUH? REALLY?
YEAH.
IT LOOKS LIKE CHACHA LIKES YOU, TOO, SERINUMA-SAN.
BADUMP
ドキッ


トーン HOP
Meow.
ドキン
BADUMP
Shut
BADUMP
ドキン

SQUEEZE
KISS
CREAK
KISS
JOLT
OH...!

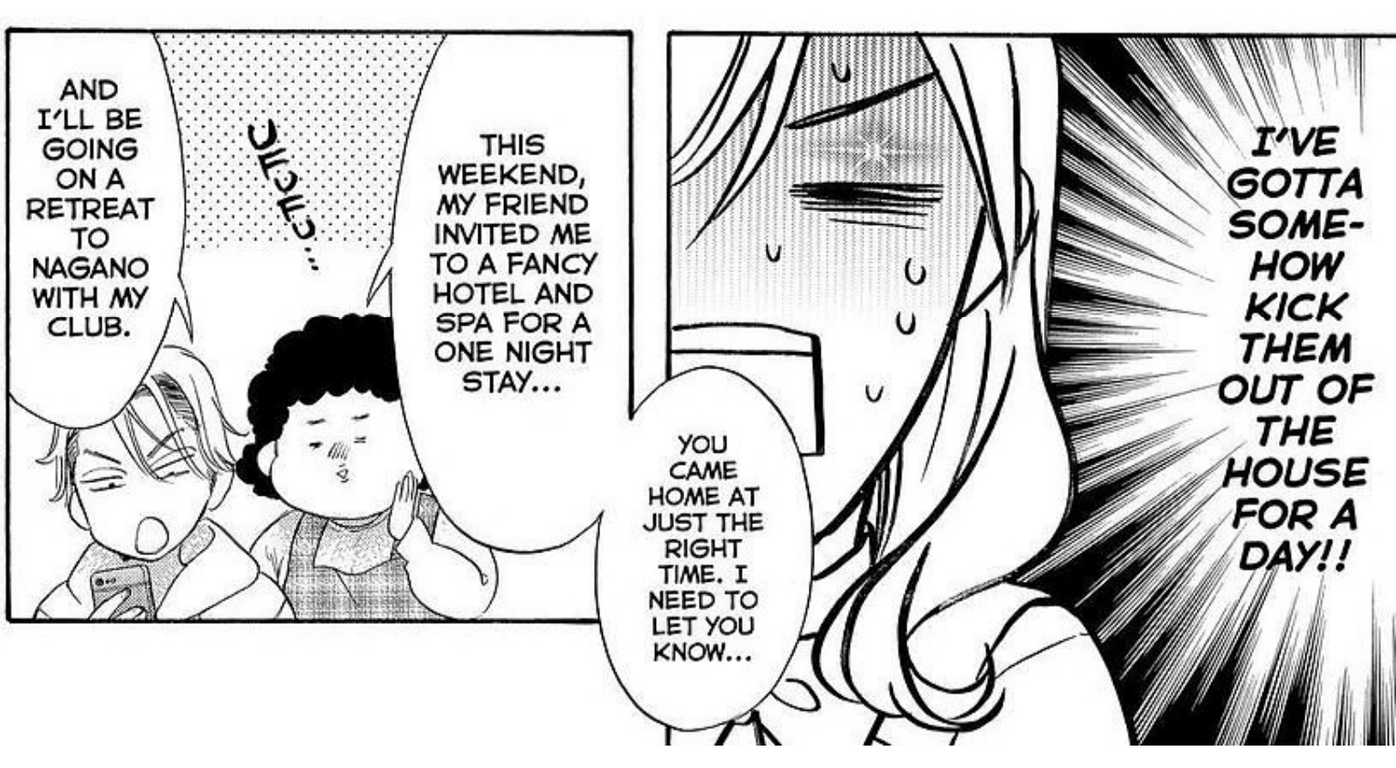
I'M HOME !!
BAM
YOU HERE, ASUMA ?!


?!

か あぁ
...
あ BLUSH
CRUMBLE
バキッーキ
CRUMBLE
The kanji for "Heart," crumbling apart.
OH.
UH, SHOULD I COME BACK IN AN HOUR?!
Longer?
MY BAD, MY BAD! I'LL STEP OUT!
HEH HEH

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
I'LL SEE YOU LATER!
HUH?
S... SERI-NUMA-SA...
IT'S OKAY! DON'T COME ANY CLOS-ER!!
OH BOY...
My bad!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, KAZUMA...?
NOTH-ING! I JUST SUD-DENLY GOT HOME-SICK.
SO SORRY, MAN!
YEAH... LET ME PUNCH YOU...
HUH? NO!!
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
H...
HOW CAN THIS HAP-PEN?!
WAAAHHH
THIS WAS A CHANCE THAT WOULDN'T COME AGAIN!
THAT DEVIL!!!

I CAN'T LEAVE THINGS LIKE THIS!
I'M HOME!
IF THIS IS HOW IT'S GONNA BE...
KER-CHAK
I'M GONNA TAKE MATTERS INTO MY OWN HANDS!
MY MOM AND BROTHER ARE ALWAYS AT HOME, BUT...
OH, WEL-COME HOME, KAE.


I'VE GOTTA SOME-HOW KICK THEM OUT OF THE HOUSE FOR A DAY!!
YOU CAME HOME AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME. I NEED TO LET YOU KNOW...
THIS WEEKEND, MY FRIEND INVITED ME TO A FANCY HOTEL AND SPA FOR A ONE NIGHT STAY...
ﾆﾔﾆﾔ...
AND I'LL BE GOING ON A RETREAT TO NAGANO WITH MY CLUB.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT HAVING THE HOUSE TO YOURSELF ALL WEEKEND?
?
HEH...
HEH HEH...
OH...
WOBBLE...
JUST LEAVE IT TO ME!
YOU TWO HAVE FUN!
SMILE
THIS IS IT!!!
THE HEAVENS...
THE HEAVENS HAVE BLESSED US...!!
MUTSUMI-SENPAI!!
OH...

SERI-NUMA-SAN!
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT YESTER-DAY...!
NO, DON'T BE!
YOU COULDN'T HELP IT. IT WAS THAT EVIL, UH...I MEAN, KAZUMA-SAN.
MORE IMPOR-TANTLY ...
SENPAI.
きゅっ
TUG
TH...
THIS SATUR-DAY...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME OVER TO MY HOUSE ...?
NO ONE WILL BE HOME THIS WEEKEND ...
N...

SURE...
SOUNDS GOOD.
OH. MU-TSU-MI!
JUST THE PER-SON I WANT TO SEE. DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT TO TALK?
UH, SURE.
ANY-WAY...
Staff Room
職員室
GIVE IT SOME SERIOUS THOUGHT.
THIS IS IMPOR-TANT, SO...
ALL RIGHT.

RATTLE
ガララ
EX-
CUSE
ME.
PER-
SONALLY,
I RECOM-
MEND
YOU GO
FOR IT.
TMP...
...

That Saturday...
ALL RIGHT!!
MY MOM AND BROTHER ARE OUT OF THE HOUSE!!
MY ROOM...
...IS ALL CLEANED UP!!
PERFECT!!
ふーっ WHEW
THE HOUSE IS ALL READY FOR SENPAI!!
HE'S GONNA BE HERE SOON...
IT'LL BE FINE. IT'LL BE FINE.
どき BADUMP
どき BADUMP
どき BADUMP
どき
JUST RELAX...!
どき BADUMP
どき BADUMP
ピンポーン DING DONG
JOLT
EEK!
ONE MOMENT!!
COMING!!
THUD
THUD
THUD

OH.
HELLO.
CAN I COME IN?
MU-TSUMI-SENPAI!
WEL-COME!
HERE, I BROUGHT A GIFT...
WOW! THANK YOU SO MUCH!
OH, I PREP-ARED US SOME DIN-NER!
AL-THOUGH IT'S JUST CURRY.
Heh heh heh!
REALLY? I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!
THANK YOU!

SCUTTLE
HEH HEH HEH.
I.. I'LL JUST SCOOCH NEXT TO YOU.
...
HAVE SOME TEA.
THANKS.
CLINK
SENPAI... SEEMS SO CALM.
EVEN THOUGH I FEEL LIKE I'M ABOUT TO BURST...
I WONDER WHAT HE'S THINKING ABOUT...
I WANT HIM TO LOOK THIS WAY...
?
GLANCE
FWUMP
HERE GOES!
LOOK AT ME...
H...

UH...
GASP
はっ
SENPAI.
I LOVE YOU...
WAIT.

...
THE TRUTH IS...
THERE'S ...
...SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU FIRST.
R... RIGHT NOW?
HUH? WH... WHAT IS IT?
I FOUND OUT...
...THAT I GOT A RECOM-MENDATION TO A UNIVERSITY.
WHAT ...?!
WOW!! THAT'S AMAZING!!
WOW!!
キャー EEK!
THAT'S GREAT, MUTSUMI-SENPAI! I MEAN, YOU DO HAVE REALLY GOOD MARKS!
THE SCHOOL ...

...IS IN KYOTO.
HUH ...?
TO BE CONTINUED IN the FEBRUARY issue

KISS HIM, NOT ME!

BY JUNKO

#54 SENPAI'S DREAM

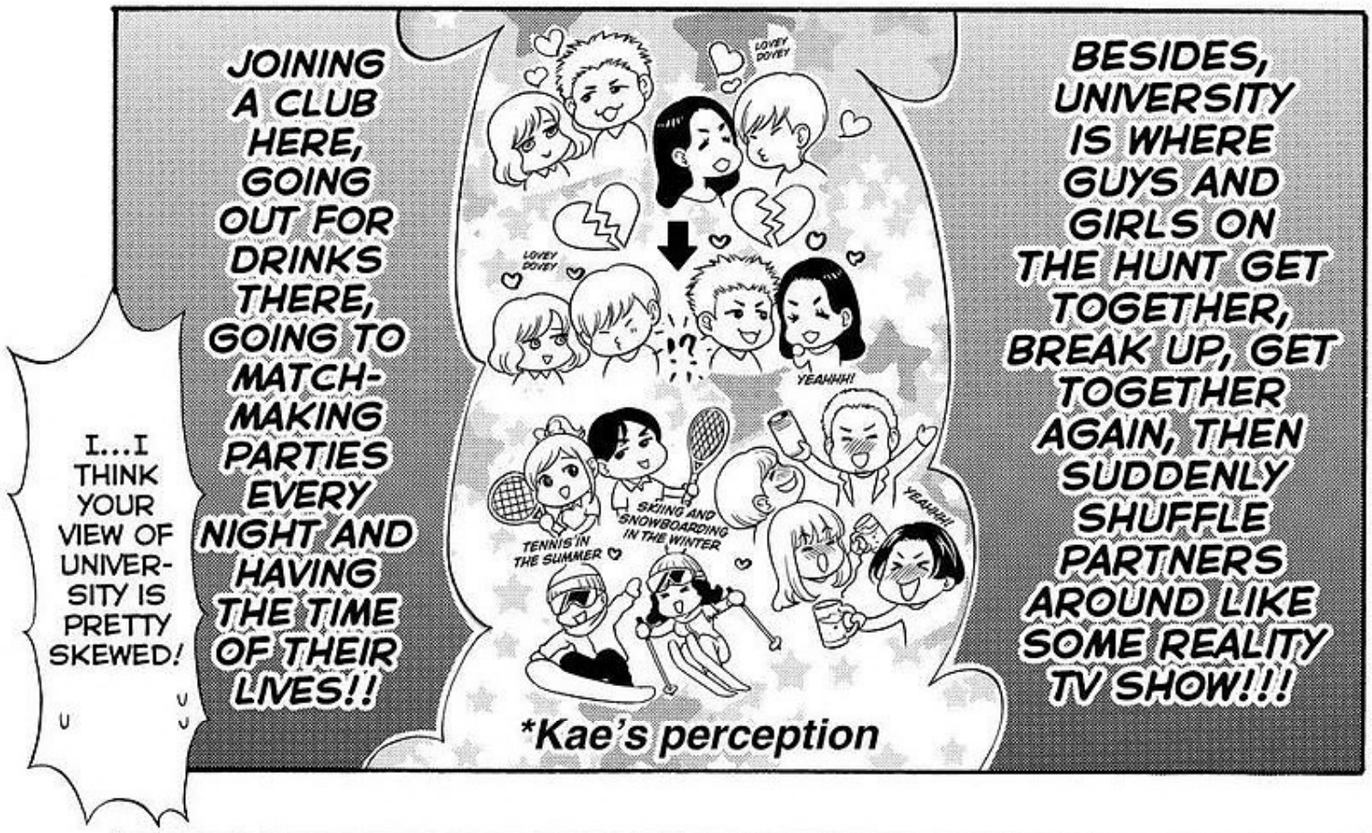
*THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL, AND COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, AND EVENTS.

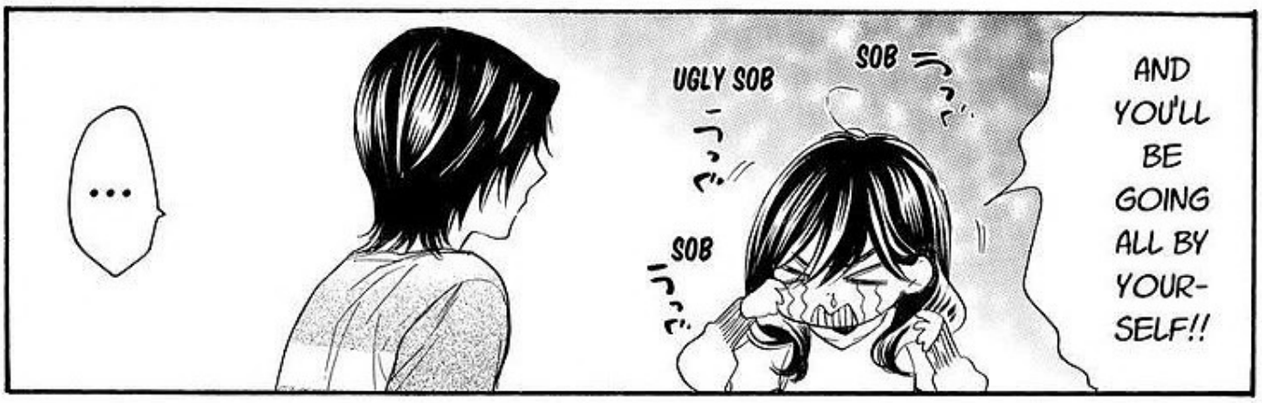
...
UH...
WHAT ...
...DO YOU MEAN?
HUH ...?
BUT THAT'S... FAR AWAY...
KYOTO'S FAR AWAY, ISN'T IT?
YEAH.
W...WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE EACH OTHER WHEN WE WANT TO...
W...WE WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD HANDS WHEN WE WANT TO!!
YEAH.
UH, BUT IT'S JUST UNDER THREE HOURS AWAY BY BULLET TRAIN.
ACK!
BUT THE BULLET TRAIN IS SO EXPENSIVE!!
UH, RIGHT.
S...
SERINUMA-SAN...
...!!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
H...

HAVE YOU AL-READY MADE YOUR DECI-SION?
WITHOUT EVEN TELLING ME...?
FWIP
NO...I HAVEN'T DECIDED ANY-THING.
THAT'S WHY I'M TELLING YOU NOW.
SO...?
I...
I WANT TO GO.
THERE'S A PROF-ESSOR I REALLY ADMIRE.

B...BUT THEN, WE'LL BE SEP-ARATED.
SENPAI, ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THAT...?!
CLENCH...
IF YOU...
...CAN FORGIVE ME...
THAT'S ...
THAT'S SO...
...UN-FAIR OF YOU...
IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, I...I...

KAPOW
JOLT
CLATTER
WHAM
I'M DEFINITELY NOT GONNA FORGIVE YOU!!
BWAHHHH!!
S... SOMEBODY MIGHT STEAL YOU AWAY!
IF WE'RE APART, SOMEBODY...
WE'RE GONNA BE APART!!
OF COURSE I'M NOT FINE WITH THIS!!
YOU DON'T KNOW THAT!!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FOR ME, SERINUMA-SAN!
TH... THAT'S NOT TRUE.
You don't even notice when someone hits on you!
...SOMEONE LIKE YASHIRO-SENPAI WILL SNAP YOU UP BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!
SENPAI, YOU CAN BE SO CLUELESS THAT ...


I...I THINK YOUR VIEW OF UNIVERSITY IS PRETTY SKEWED!
JOINING A CLUB HERE, GOING OUT FOR DRINKS THERE, GOING TO MATCH-MAKING PARTIES EVERY NIGHT AND HAVING THE TIME OF THEIR LIVES!!
LOVEY DOVEY
LOVEY DOVEY
YEAHHH!
YEAHHH!
TENNIS IN THE SUMMER
SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING IN THE WINTER
*Kae's perception
BESIDES, UNIVERSITY IS WHERE GUYS AND GIRLS ON THE HUNT GET TOGETHER, BREAK UP, GET TOGETHER AGAIN, THEN SUDDENLY SHUFFLE PARTNERS AROUND LIKE SOME REALITY TV SHOW!!!


...
UGLY SOB
SOB
SOB
AND YOU'LL BE GOING ALL BY YOURSELF!!

YOU HAVE... THAT LITTLE FAITH IN ME?

LIKE, AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT LEAVING ME ALL BY MYSELF ?!
WHAT I MEAN IS, UH...
FLUSTER
あわっ
UH...
TH... THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN ...
SAY WHAT ?!
TO BE HONEST, YEAH. YOU'D GO NUTS RIGHT AWAY.
I'VE HAD IT!! GO HOME!!
HUH, UH...
NOW !!
You jerk!
ゆらっ
WOBBLE
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME, YET YOU'D STILL LEAVE ME BEHIND...

SERI-NUMA-SAN! LET'S TALK AGAIN WHEN YOU'VE CALMED DOWN!
SLAM
WE HAVE NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT!!
BEAT IT!
TOSS
WHOA
KER-CHAK
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP

SENPAI ...
YOU IDIOT ...!
...!
TMP...

2-A
POUT

GASP
SERI-NUMA-SAN!
PEEK
OH!
UH...
SHWIP
I have nothing to say to you!
TURN
SCRIB SCRIB SCRIB
FWIP
IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN HAVE THIS.
UH.
Strawberry Jam Bread
SLIDE
I'LL COME BACK.
OKAY, THEN.

GOBBLE
もっ
もっ
GOBBLE
…
I…
I'M NOT GONNA BE WON OVER SO EASILY!!

K…KAE-CHAN?
WHAT HAPPENED THIS TIME…?

SPLATTER
BURST
JOLT
S… SENPAI… IS…
…GONNA DUMP MEEEE!
HUH ?!
I WAAHHH!
TEAR
AH-CHAN …

WHAT ?!
HE'S GOING TO UNIVERSITY IN KYOTO?!

M... MU-TSUMI-SENPAI IS DUMP-ING ME!!
SOB SOB SOB SOB
Y... YOU'RE BEING DRAMA-TIC.
SO IT'S GONNA BE LONG DIS-TANCE!

YEAH...
AND HE'S GONNA LEAVE ME BEHIND...

BUT HE DIDN'T ASK YOU TO BREAK UP WITH HIM, DID HE?
No way...
N...NO...

SO THERE'S STILL ROOM TO TALK THINGS OUT!!
YEAH!
KYOTO IS STILL ON THE MAINLAND, AND IT'S REALLY CLOSE BY HELICOP-TER!
QUIET, YOU.

I KNOW IT MUST BE TOUGH FOR YOU, SERINUMA-SAN, BUT...
...IF I GOT RECOM-MENDED TO A SCHOOL WITH A COACH I WANTED TO TRAIN WITH, I THINK I'D WANNA GO, TOO.
YOU CAN'T ASK HIM TO GIVE UP ON HIS DREAM JUST LIKE THAT.
"DREAM" ...
BADUMP...
BOOM
NO WAY !!
IF IT WERE ME, I'D PICK THE GIRL!!
ME TOO !!
YEAH!
RIGHT ?!
THOSE TWO IDIOTS JUST HAD TO PIPE UP AGAIN...

HEY! DON'T, YOU GUYS!
SLAM
AGH ...
I'M GOING, TOO!!
WHAAA ?!
I CAN'T JUST SIT BACK AND WATCH!!! I'M GONNA GO TALK TO MUTSUMI-SENPAI!!
SERI-NUMA-SAN...
YOU KNOW ...
Mmm, I'd say Shino x Nana.
What do you think? Nana x Shino? Or Shino x Nana?
HONESTLY, THOSE TWO ARE CUT FROM THE SAME CLOTH.
I THINK IT'D BE GOOD IF YOU THOUGHT ABOUT...
...WHAT YOU WOULD DO...
...IF YOU HAD A DREAM YOU WANTED SO BADLY TO FULFILL.

WE HEARD YOU GOT RECOM-MENDED TO A UNIVER-SITY IN KYOTO...
ARE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT GOING?!
YEAH.
I AM.
BOOM
HUHHH?!
I DON'T GET YOU AT ALL!!
IF IT WERE ME, I'D STAY !!
バァーン!
BOOM
YOU CAN STUDY ANY-WHERE, Y'KNOW!
BUT YOU ONLY HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND HERE!
AND YOU CAN'T GO LONG DIS-TANCE!
'CAUSE THEN YOU CAN'T TOUCH EACH OTHER!!
Right?!
HONKA
HONKA
HONKA
HONKA
HOW VULGAR.
UH ...

INSTEAD OF GOING ABROAD WITH MY PARENTS, I STAYED IN JAPAN SO I COULD BE WITH YOU ALL.
YOU DONT FEEL THE SAME WAY, MUTSUMI-SENPAI ...?
...
HERE ...
I'VE LIKED CASTLES SINCE I WAS LITTLE...
Since they're cool...
I GREW INTERESTED IN HISTORY AFTER READING THIS BOOK.
I'VE READ ALL OF THE WRITINGS BY THIS PROFES-SOR.
Travel Through History
FWIP
AND THIS PROFES-SOR TEACHES AT THE SCHOOL I WANT TO GO TO.
SO...
THIS IS MORE IMPOR-TANT THAN SERI-NUMA?

I CAN'T COMPARE THE TWO.
BESIDES, I DON'T INTEND ON BREAKING UP WITH SERINUMA-SAN.
I BELIEVE WE'LL BE OKAY...
'CAUSE OUR HEARTS ARE CONNECTED.
WHAT'S THE POINT IF YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO BELIEVES THAT?
DON'T YOU GET WHAT IT IS THAT BOTHERS SERINUMA?!

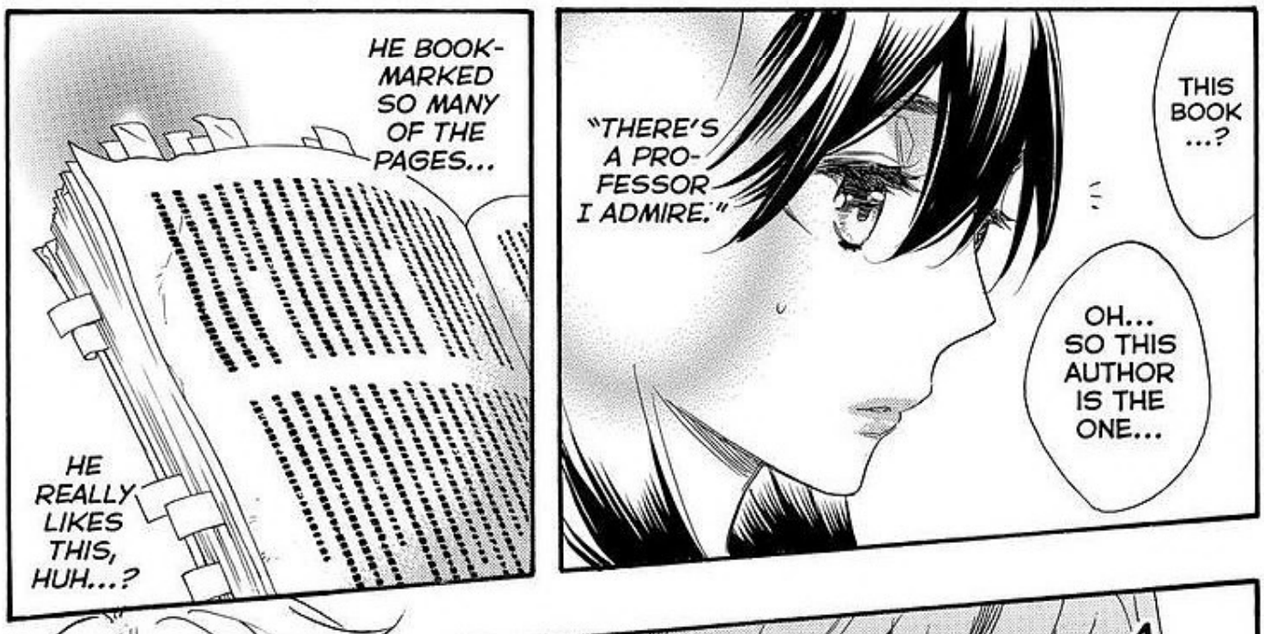
IF YOU TELL HER TO TRUST IN SOMETHING SHE CAN'T SEE, OF COURSE SHE'LL FEEL ANXIOUS!!
IF YOU WANT HER TO TRUST IN YOU, WHY NOT GIVE HER SOMETHING, ANYTHING, THAT'LL SERVE AS PROOF?!
NANASHIMA-SHENPAI... YOU'RE SO COOL!!
Oh my god...
He actually sounds respectable!!
IF...
...YOU'RE GONNA KEEP SAYING STUPID STUFF...
I'M GONNA TAKE SERINUMA FOR MYSELF!! THIS IS MY SHOT, MAN!
BOOM
HA HA HA HA HA HA!!
TAKE THAT! HAR HAR!!
AND HE RUINED IT!!

ANYWAY, THAT'S ALL!!
TOO-DLES !!
SHWOOP
SLAM
HEY, WAI...
JEEZ ...
...
PROOF ...?
BADUMP
MU-TSUMI-SENPAI ...
HUH?
DO YOU MIND IF I BORROW THIS?
...

"A DREAM" ...
IF I... HAD A DREAM ...?
NO WAY!!
IF IT WERE ME, I'D TOTALLY PICK MUTSUMI-SENPAI!!
ARGH!
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I THINK ABOUT IT, THAT'S A GIVEN!!

IT'S TRUE THAT I DON'T HAVE A DREAM PER SE!!
BUT I'D BE INTERESTED IN, SAY, RESEARCH ON PHYSICALLY ENTERING THE 2D WORLD!!
AND I STILL WOULDN'T WANT TO BE SEPARATED FROM MUTSUMI-SENPAI!!
PANT
PANT
BUT THIS IS ALL HYPOTHETICAL TALK, SO I MIGHT NOT BE TAKING IT SERIOUSLY ENOUGH ...!!
YEAH, BUT EVEN SO!
SERI-NUMA-SENPAI.
MUMBLE
DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?
SHINO-MIYA-KUN?
UH, COULD YOU...
...TAKE A LOOK AT THIS?
A BOOK?
IT'S SO WORN OUT...

IT BELONGS TO MUTSUMI-SENPAI.
HE SAID THIS WAS THE BOOK THAT GOT HIM INTO HISTORY.
IT'S INCREDIBLE HOW HE'S READ IT OVER AND OVER...


HE BOOK-MARKED SO MANY OF THE PAGES...
HE REALLY LIKES THIS, HUH...?
"THERE'S A PRO-FESSOR I ADMIRE."
THIS BOOK ...?
OH... SO THIS AUTHOR IS THE ONE...

UH ...
ズキ-ン
TWINGE
A DREAM ...

WHEN...
...MY PARENTS WENT TO NORWAY...
WHOOSH
I STAYED HERE...
...'CAUSE I WANTED TO BE WITH YOU, SERINUMA-SENPAI.

AT FIRST...
MY PARENTS WERE TOTALLY AGAINST IT.

HEH HEH...
THE OTHER SENPAI, TOO.
AND...
UH...

NATURALLY, THEY WERE WORRIED ABOUT ME.
I WAS IMMATURE AND CLUMSY...
BUT IN THE END, THEY AGREED TO LET ME STAY.
AND I THINK IT'S BECAUSE THEY TRUSTED ME.
...!
I MEAN, I'M SURE YOUR SITUATION WITH MUTSUMI-SENPAI IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM MINE WITH MY PARENTS ...
B... BUT!
THEY LET ME GO, TRUSTING THAT I'D BE ALL RIGHT.
AND FOR THAT REASON ...
I FEEL LIKE... I'M TRYING MY BEST TO DO WELL ON MY OWN.

...!
UH, UM... I MEAN, I KNOW I STILL NEED A LOT OF HELP!
Like, around the house and stuff...
I'M TALK-ING ABOUT MY ATTI-TUDE!
UH, I'M SORRY.
I'M NOT GETTING MY POINT ACROSS VERY WELL!
SO... UH...
NOT AT ALL ...
I UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.
THANKS.
WHOOSH
BUT...
IT'S STILL NO USE.

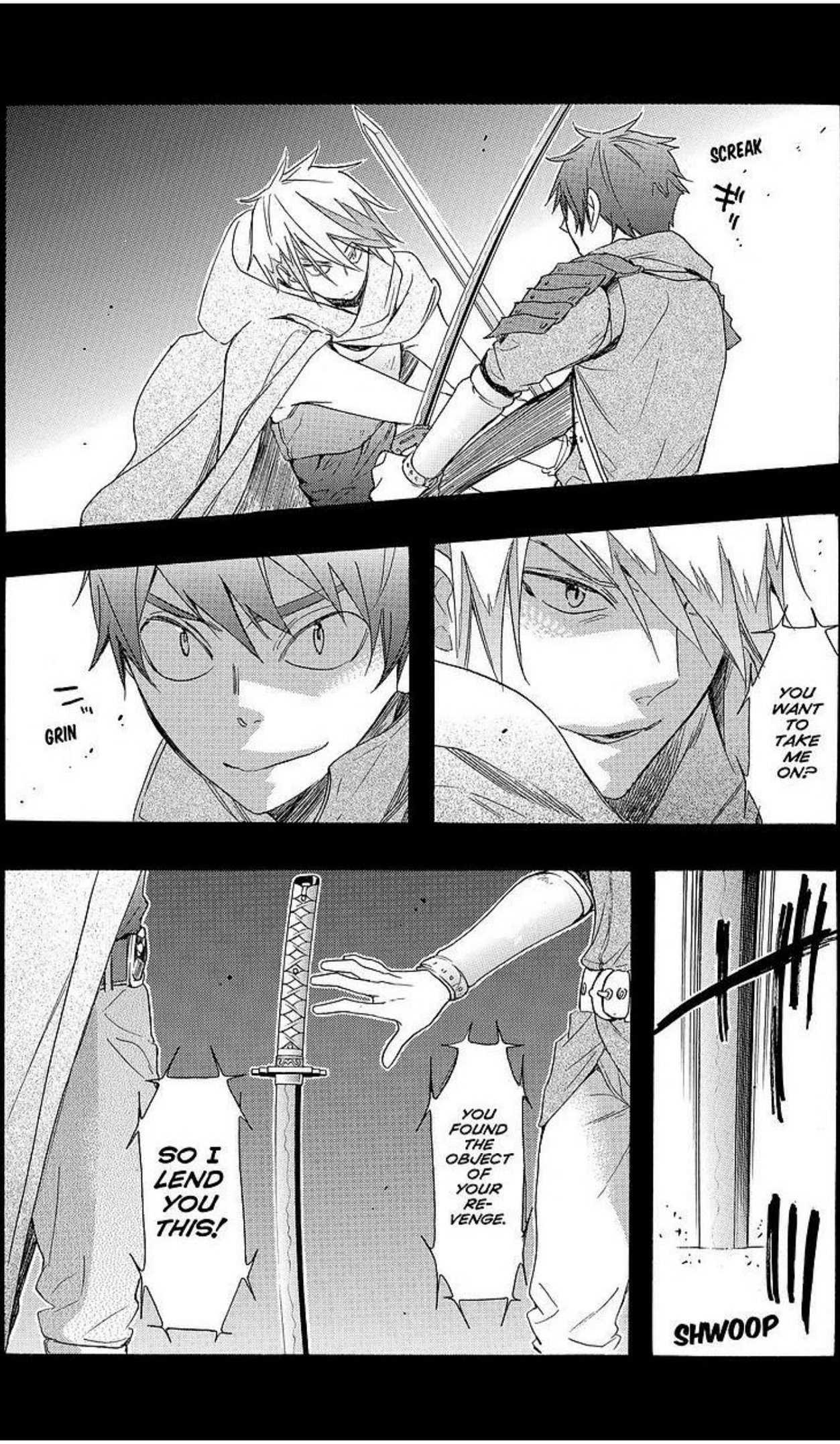
WHEN I THINK ABOUT SENPAI GOING AWAY...
I FEEL OVER-WHELMED WITH LONE-LINESS AND ANXIETY.
I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL SCARED...!
I'M SO PATHETIC FOR FEELING THIS WAY...
B...
BUT ...
BUT ...
SENPAI ...

ANOTHER PAGE CREASED OPEN...
HE EVEN WROTE ON IT...
THE EDGES ARE ALL WORN OUT HERE...
HE MUST HAVE READ THIS PAGE A LOT, TOO...
SENPAI'S DREAM...
THIS BOOK IS PROOF OF IT.
SHUT
はひだい...

I WANT TO SUPPORT HIM...
BUT...
TWINGE
I GET SO ANXIOUS ...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...
I MEAN, THESE FEELINGS AREN'T TANGIBLE.
I'M... ONLY THINKING ABOUT MYSELF...
CLENCH
I FEEL SO HELP-LESS.
I WANT TO DO SOME-THING ABOUT THIS...
TICK
BUT WHAT?
23:30

GASP
"MIRAGE SAGA" IS ON.
DA-DAN
Mirage Saga
SHION!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING AT THIS HOUR OF THE NIGHT?
I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS.
OR ARE YOU TOO EMBARRASSED TO SAY YOU'RE GOING AFTER HER?
RUSTLE

CUT THE NON-SENSE!
I'M HEADING NORTH.
IF I FOLLOW HER...
SHE'LL LEAD ME TO THE "CLAWED MAN".
SO LONG AS I'VE FOUND MY TARGET, I HAVE NO REASON TO GO WITH YOU LOT.
THIS IS WHERE WE GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS.
FWIP
LIKE I SAID...
I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS...
HAH !!
CLASH


SCREAK
GRIN
YOU WANT TO TAKE ME ON?
SHWOOP
YOU FOUND THE OBJECT OF YOUR RE-VENGE.
SO I LEND YOU THIS!

HAND IT OVER.
IN RETURN ...
...YOU'LL LEAVE YOUR SWORD, SHION.
YOU SHOULD LOOK TO THE HORIZON YOURSELF.
ONCE YOU GET YOUR REVENGE ...
YOU AND I SHARE THE SAME GOAL.
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO SEE THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.
IF SO...
"AND SO, SHION PARTED WAYS WITH TERRA.
"HOWEVER, THEY WILL NOT BE PARTED FOREVER."
SWEAR YOU'LL RETURN IT.
I'M LENDING THIS TO YOU.
REMEMBER,

"THEY WILL MEET AGAIN AT THE ENDS OF THE EARTH."
"IF THEY CONTINUE TO GO AFTER THE SAME LIGHT...
"IF THEY CONTINUE TO GO AFTER THE SAME LIGHT"...
...!!
Rrring
Rrring
GRAB

HELLO,
SERI-NUMA-SAN?
OH,
SENPAI ...!
THANKS FOR CALLING. HAVE YOU SETTLED DOWN?
UH, YES...
UH,
SORRY ABOUT... THE LAST FEW DAYS.
I...
I'D LIKE TO HAVE A PROPER TALK...
...ABOUT WHERE THIS RELATION-SHIP IS GOING.
OKAY.
BUT BEFORE THAT, THERE'S JUST ONE REQUEST I'D LIKE TO MAKE.
WHAT'S THAT?

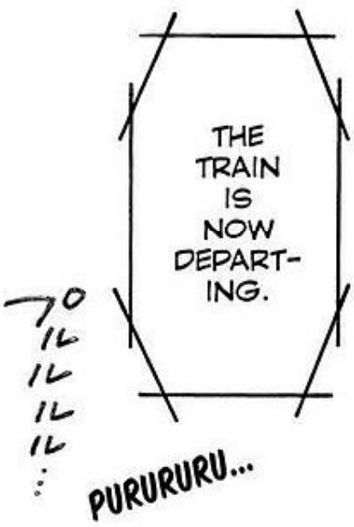
I...
I WANT TO SEE WITH MY OWN EYES THE PLACE... WHERE YOU'LL BE GOING TO SCHOOL, SENPAI.
SO...
LET'S GO TO KYOTO TOGETHER!!
TO BE CONTINUED IN the MARCH issue

*THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL, AND COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, OR EVENTS.

HEY, SERI-NUMA-SAN! OVER HERE!

SORRY FOR BEING LATE. I FORGOT SOMETHING AT MY HOUSE...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
C'MON, LET'S GET ON.
OKAY!

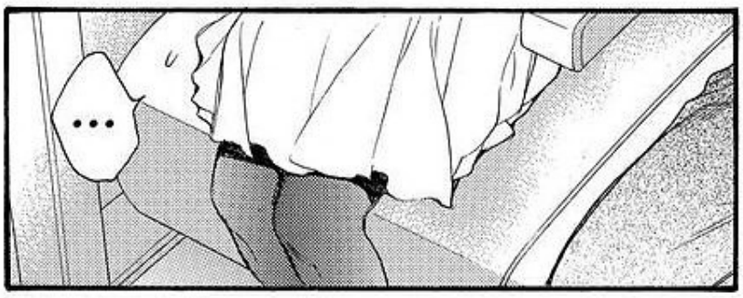
WHOOSH


THE TRAIN IS NOW DEPART-ING.
PURURURU...

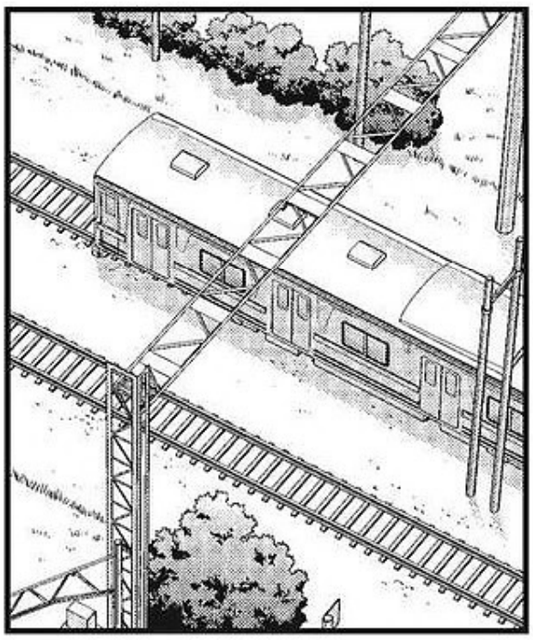
SORRY FOR SAYING I WANTED TO GO TO KYOTO ALL OF A SUD-DEN...
FWOOOSH
NO, NO.
I ALSO WANTED TO CHECK OUT THE PLACE, SO IT WORKED OUT WELL.
Have some tea.
Oh, thank you.
OH, I...I SEE.
BE-SIDES ...
SENPAI ...
I WAS HAPPY WHEN YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO GO SEE THE PLACE FIRST-HAND...
GULP

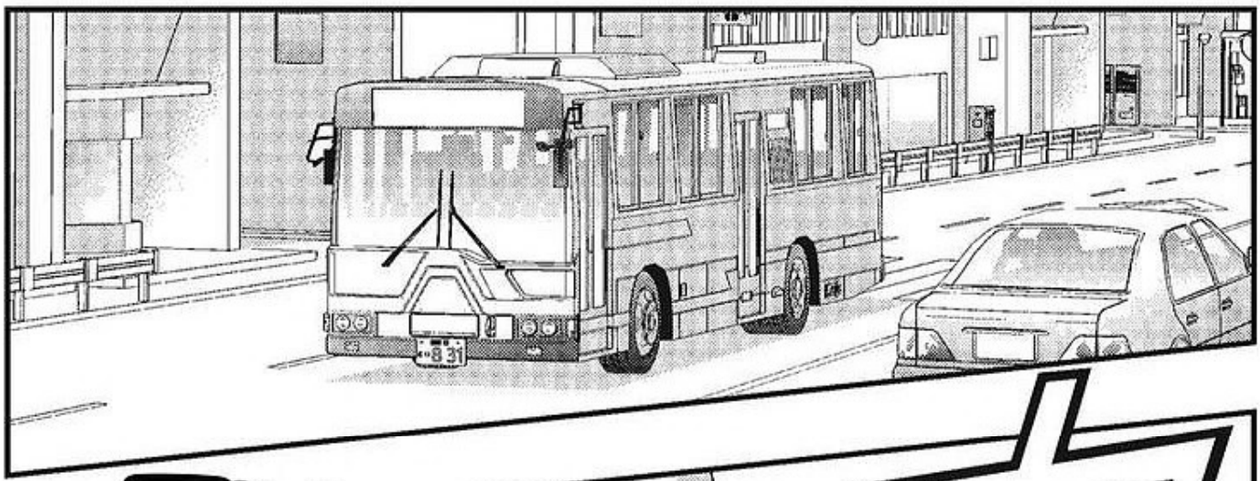
OH.
MOUNT FUJI LOOKS SO PRETTY ...

UH ...


...

京都
きょうと
Kyōto
しんおおさか
Shin Ōsaka
まいばら
Maibara





TMP
ﾅﾅ
ﾘﾘ

YEAH. MY FIRST-CHOICE SCHOOL.
...SO THIS IS...

YEAH... I SUPPOSE SO.
IF THE SCHOOL IS HERE, YOU'LL BE LIVING SOME-WHERE NEARBY ...RIGHT?
YEAH ...

CHATTER
ガヤ
ガヤ
CHATTER
WE'VE FINALLY AR-RIVED...
YEAH ...

Sh...
SHOULD WE CHECK IT OUT?!
HUH?
GULP
C'MON!
...

Cafe
OPEN
10:00~
19:30
WHEW !!
THIS CAMPUS IS SO BIG!!
YEAH, COMPARED TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL.
LOTS OF PEOPLE, TOO...
YEAH.

IT REALLY IS...
QUITE FAR ...
YEAH...
I CAN'T ...
...COME VISIT YOU VERY EASILY AT THIS DISTANCE, HUH?
YEAH ...
BUT ...

THIS IS WHERE YOUR DREAM IS, SENPAI.

I...

BUT THAT DOES REALLY SCARE ME.
THAT'S ALL.
...IF WE'RE APART.
I WONDER ABOUT WHAT'LL HAPPEN...
...FEEL LONE-LY.

SO...
SNIF
THAT'S WHY...
SNIFFLE
I WANT YOU TO PROMISE...
...THAT WE'LL STILL BE TOGETHER GOING FORWARD.
I UNDERSTAND.
I PROMISE.
OF COURSE!!
GLARE!!
JOLT
NO...!!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
THE... PROMISE I WANT YOU TO MAKE ME IS...
RUSTLE

Marriage Registration
婚姻届
BOOM
...THIS!!
?!
THE PROMISE I WANT IS A MASSIVE ONE, Y'KNOW!!
I...I MEAN IT!!
SOB
HUH...?

NEVER MIND,
SIGN IIIIT !!!!
BWAAAAHHH
CAN YOU?!
WILL YOU SIGN YOUR NAME HERE?
MMPH ...
HWA!
HA! HA! HA! HA!
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGH-ING AT?!
JUST LIKE I SAID...
YOU DO THE CRAZIEST THINGS, SERINUMA-SAN. I'M SO WORRIED!
BOOM
HYUK! HYUK!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
WHAT?!

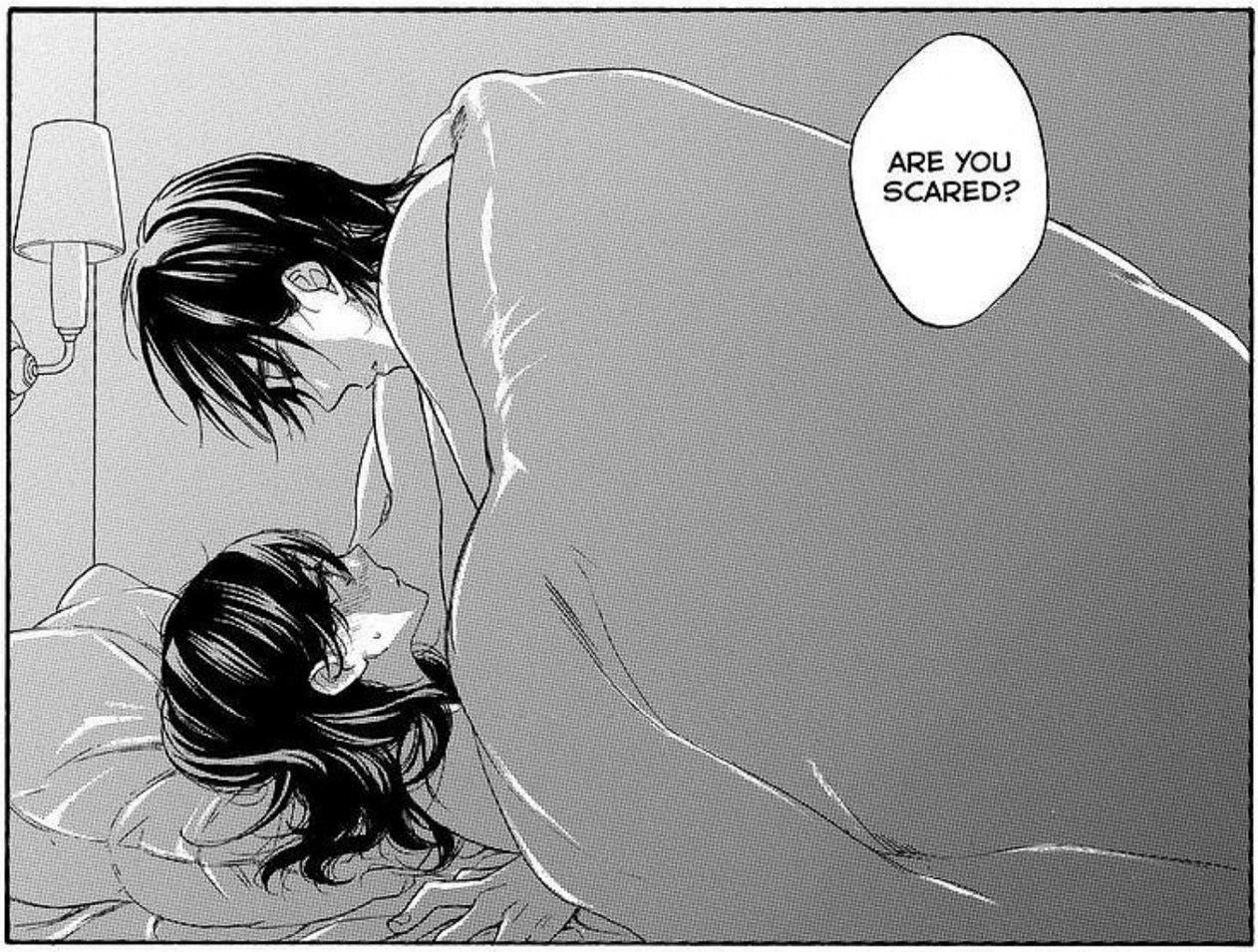
BUT ...
WE MIGHT BE ON THE SAME PAGE HERE.
HUH ...?
THIS IS...

..MY WAY OF ASKING YOU...
...TO STAY TOGETH-ER WITH ME FOR-EVER.
WILL YOU SAY YES?
...
Y...
...ES.
YES...!

THIS IS MY PROMISE TO YOU.
LET'S BE TO-GETHER ...

...
FOREVER.

QUIVER
...!


ARE YOU SCARED?

...
P... PLEASE BE GENTLE WITH ME...

I FEEL THE SAME WAY.
BE GENTLE WITH ME, TOO, SERI-NUMA-SAN.
MMPH!
AHA!
HA! HA!
OKAY!
I WILL!
I LOVE YOU.
KAE.

BECAUSE WITHIN YOUR HANDS, YOUR BODY, YOUR HEART...
SEN-PAI,
I...
...DON'T FEEL SCARED ANYMORE ...

I HAVE A PROMISE THAT I CAN BELIEVE IN.

Graduation Ceremony

卒業式

KAE-CHAN.
はぃ
GASP
I...
I'M FINE!
しゅん...
DOWN
ヘッ POINT し!
MU-TSU-MI-SEN-PAI!!
JUST KNOW THAT IF YOU LEAVE SERINUMA ALONE, I'LL TAKE HER FOR MYSELF!
NANASHIMA-SENPAI... GIVE IT A REST...
Now's not the time!
(まつ)
TEARY
IF SERINUMA-SAN SEEMS LIKE SHE'S GONNA FLIP OUT AGAIN, I'LL SEND HER YOUR WAY BY HELICOPTER.
THANKS!
Just leave it to me!
My eyes! My eyes!
I told you!
THAT'S FINE, 'CAUSE IT WON'T HAPPEN!!
CONFIDENT
キラーン
SPARKLE
URK!

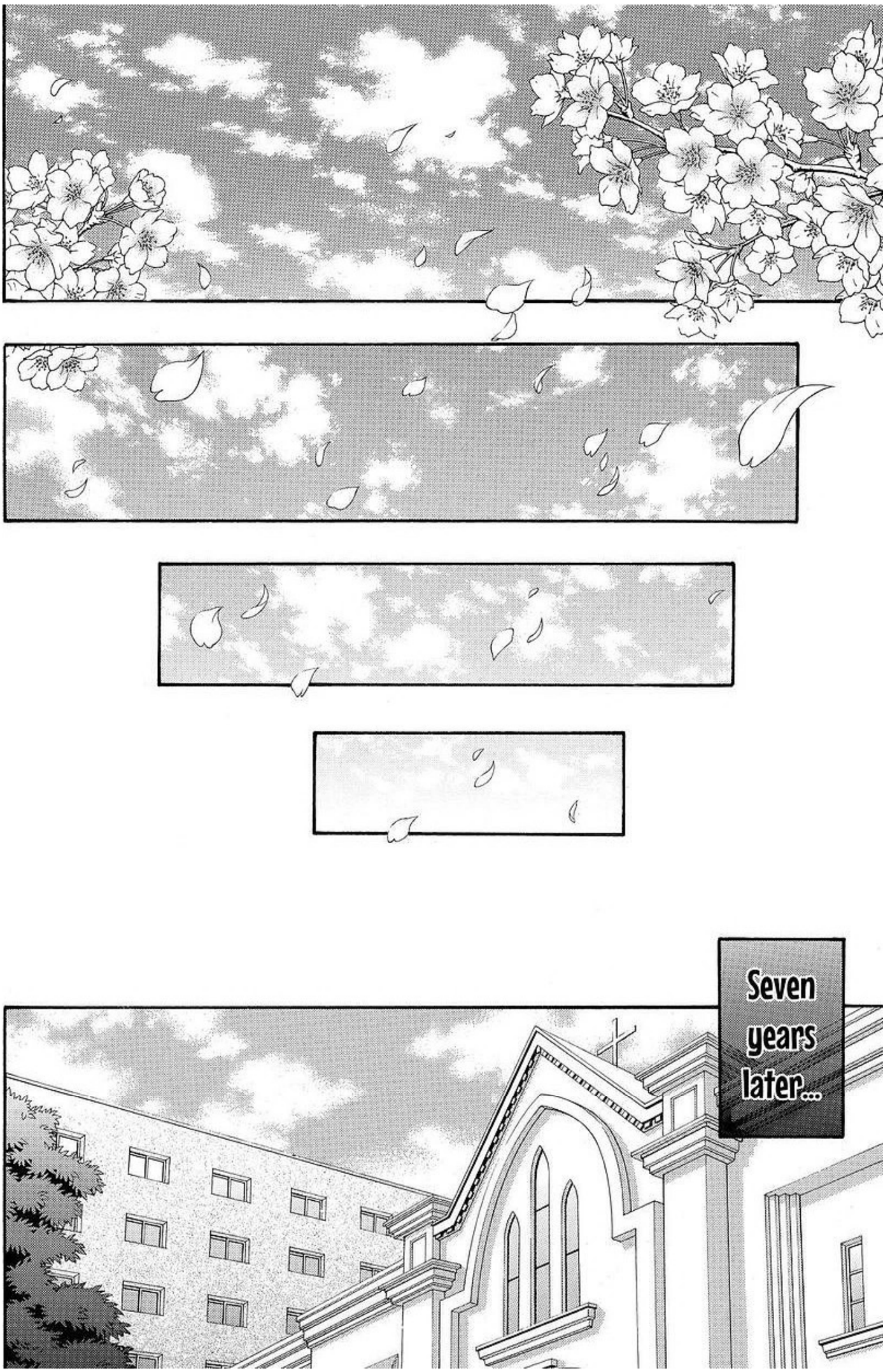
TAKE CARE.
YOU, TOO,
IGA-RASHI-KUN.
SEN-PAI ...
THERE'S SOME-THING I'VE DECIDED TO DO.
TMP
I...
I'M GONNA GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS YOU!!

HUH?
But your grades aren't good by any standard, Serinuma!
ISN'T THAT SCHOOL KINDA HARD ...?!
YEAH !!
WHICH IS WHY I'M GONNA STUDY EVERY-THING TO DEATH!
THAT'S MY DREAM RIGHT NOW, SO...
I'M GONNA MAKE SURE IT COMES TRUE!!
SO GO ON AHEAD WITHOUT ME...
BUT IF YOU JUST WAIT A YEAR...
I'LL JOIN YOU!!
OKAY!
I'LL WAIT FOR YOU.

I'LL WAIT.
参考書
References
Hmm...
今日のおかず
禁イベント
禁同人誌
行くな死ぬぞ
No events
No dojinshi
Don't go, or else you're dead!
日本史
用語集
Welcome home!

Successful Examinees
合格者発表
Graduation Ceremony
卒業式
TMP

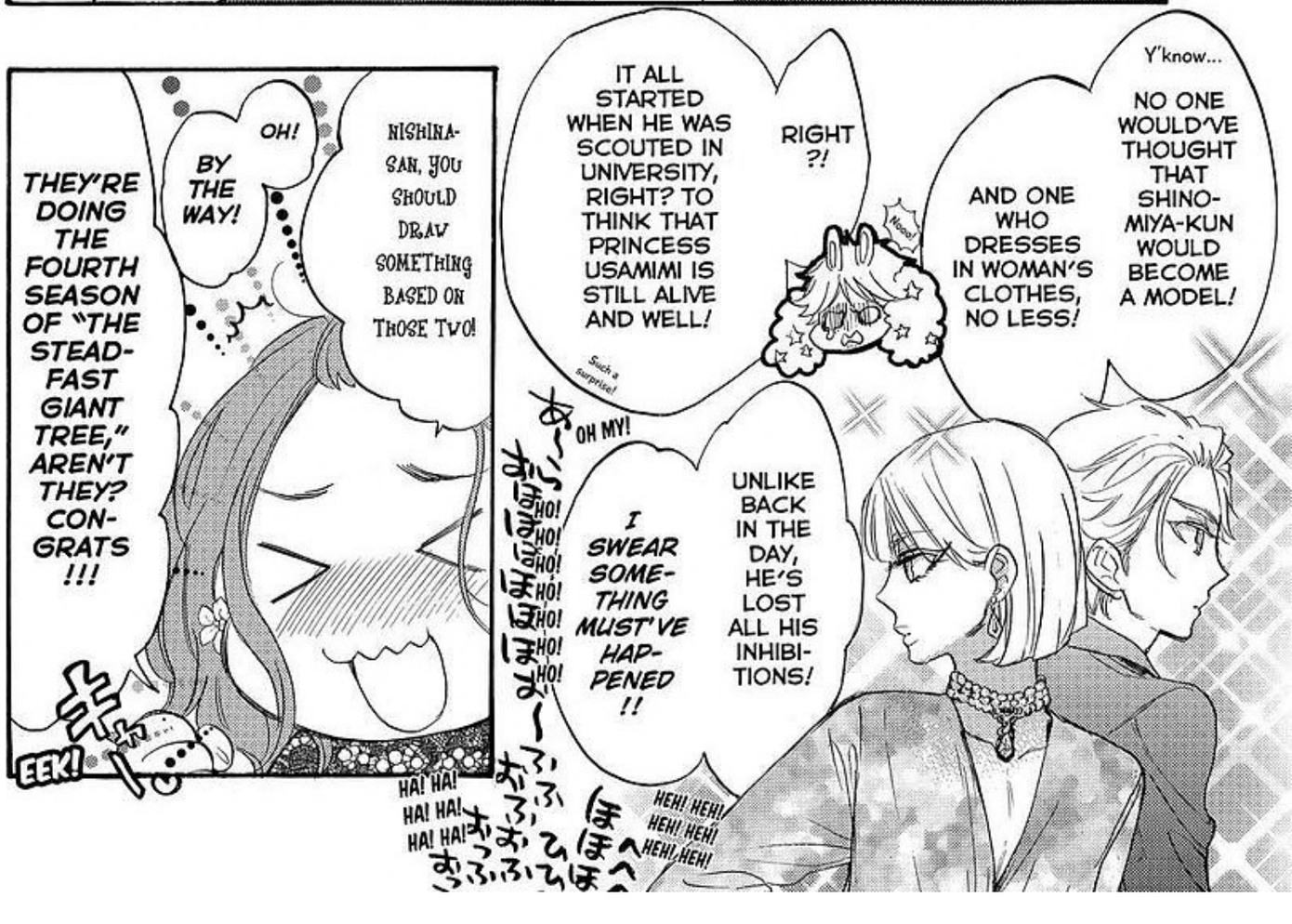
I'M FINALLY HERE!!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.


Seven years later...

OVER HERE, NANA-SHIMA-SENPAI!
OH!!
Waiting Room
for guests of the bride and groom
新郎新婦関係
待合室
WELL!!
WHAT TOOK YOU GUYS?
YOU GUYS ARE CUTTING IT CLOSE!
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
OH, GOOD. WE MADE IT ON TIME...
THIS PUNK FORGOT THE INVITATION AND GIFT MONEY!!
SO WE HAD TO GO BACK!
IT GOT LOST IN ALL THE OTHER STUFF IN MY ROOM...
THAT'S WHY I TELL YOU TO CLEAN UP YOUR ROOM! I KNEW YOU WERE GONNA PULL SOMETHING LIKE THIS!
YOU DID?!
Such a careless boy.
Hoo boy.

YEAH... SO I'VE HEARD...
THEY SURE DO LOOK LIKE ROOM-MATES, DON'T THEY?
THOSE TWO...
HUH? DON'T TURN THIS ON ME!!
THEN IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR MAKING ME HOLD ON TO IT, NOZO...NANA-SHIMA-SENPAI!
SNAP
PASSED

MUSE
RIGHT?! THIS IS A BL IF I EVER SAW ONE! AMAZ-ING!
RIGHT?
NANASHIMA-SENPAI IS A COOK AIMING TO BECOME INDEPENDENT, AND SHINO-MIYA-KUN IS A MODEL, RIGHT?
IT'S ALL THE MORE SUSPICIOUS THAT THEY AVOID TALKING ABOUT DETAILS...


OH!
BY THE WAY!
NISHINA-SAN, YOU SHOULD DRAW SOMETHING BASED ON THOSE TWO!
THEY'RE DOING THE FOURTH SEASON OF "THE STEAD-FAST GIANT TREE," AREN'T THEY? CON-GRATS !!!
EEK!
IT ALL STARTED WHEN HE WAS SCOUTED IN UNIVERSITY, RIGHT? TO THINK THAT PRINCESS USAMIMI IS STILL ALIVE AND WELL!
RIGHT ?!
Such a surprise!
Y'know...
NO ONE WOULD'VE THOUGHT THAT SHINO-MIYA-KUN WOULD BECOME A MODEL!
AND ONE WHO DRESSES IN WOMAN'S CLOTHES, NO LESS!
Noooo!
OH MY!
I SWEAR SOME-THING MUST'VE HAP-PENED !!
UNLIKE BACK IN THE DAY, HE'S LOST ALL HIS INHIBI-TIONS!
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
HEH! HEH! HEH! HEH! HEH! HEH!

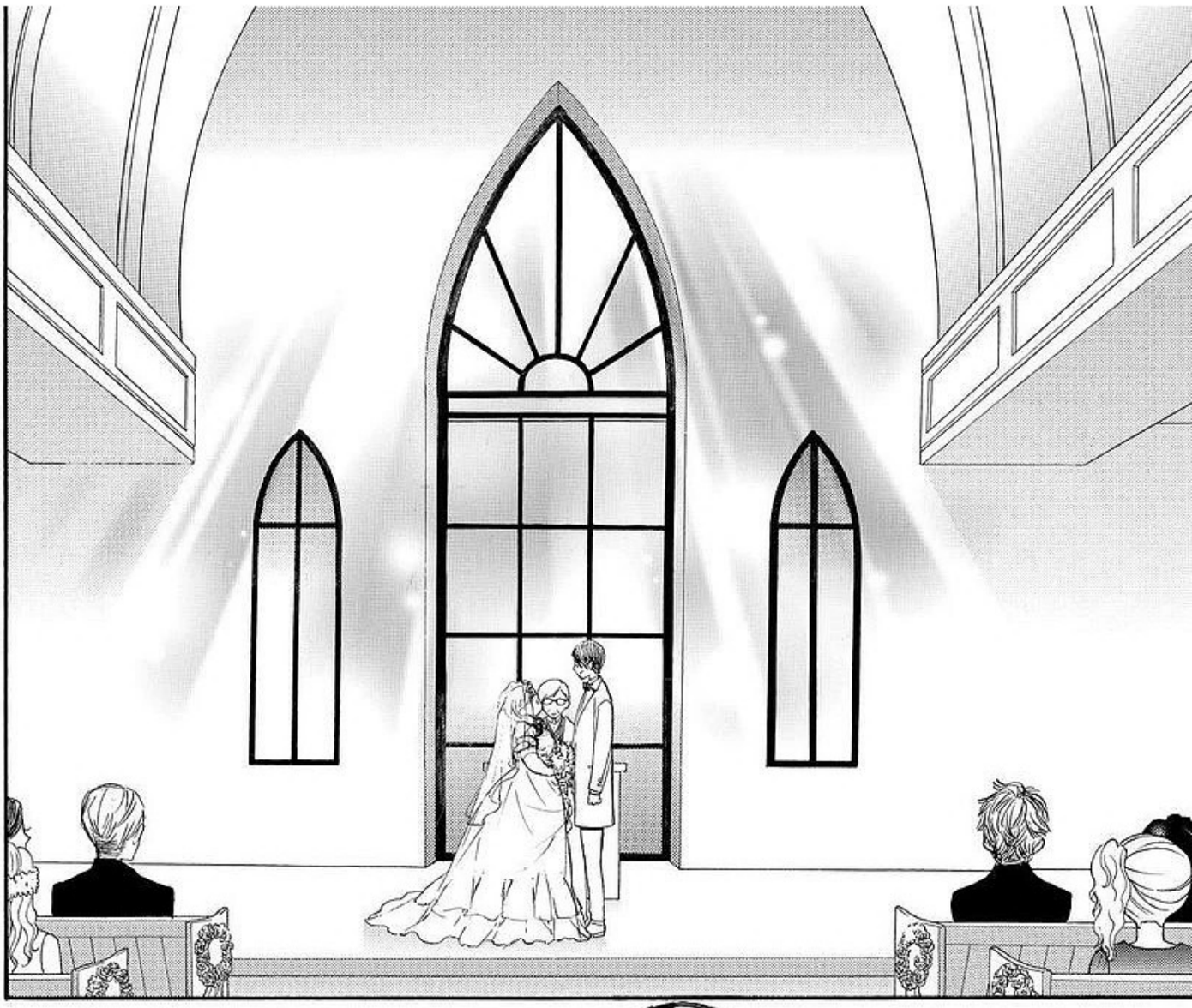
I WANNA GO!! I CAN LEAVE MY DAUGHTER WITH MY HUSBAND, SO IT'LL BE FINE!!
TMP
LET'S GO! LET'S GO!!
OH MY GOD, I'M SOOO EX-CITED!!
EEK
キャ♡
EEK
キャ♡
I'm totally into the platoon leader! ♡
Quite the discerning eye! ♡
THANK YOU SO MUCH, AH-CHAN-SENPAI! ♡
OH, THERE'S A PREVIEW SCREENING THAT'S COMING UP. WANNA GO TOGETHER?
WHA?! ARE YOU SER-IOUS?!
NO CAN DO, NISHINA-SENSEI.
THAT'S THE DAY OF THE DEAD-LINE.
I...I'LL JUST FINISH IT THE DAY BEFORE!!
Whaaat? Boooo!
I can get you in, though.
HAH. IF YOU CAN, THAT IS!
HAVE YOU EVER FINISHED AHEAD OF SCHEDULE? SENSEI?!
GRRR.
はは HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

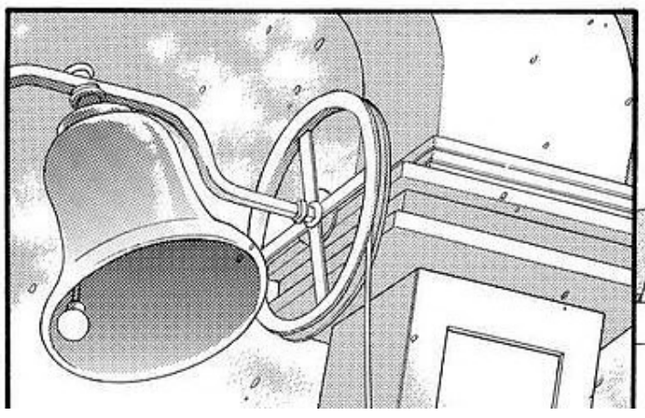
Summary
SOMEHOW, IGARASHI GOT ASSIGNED TO THE MANGA EDITING DEPARTMENT, AND HE ENDED UP SUPERVISING NISHINA, WHO WAS STILL WAITING FOR HER BIG BREAK.
IN DESPERATION, THE TWO CREATED A MEGA-HIT SERIES THAT IS THEIR COMPANY'S MOST WELL-KNOWN WORK TO THIS DAY.
We did it!
I'm gonna have you groveling before me, just you watch!!
Gimme your worst!
Be more aggressive, you silly woman!!
You do it fine in real life!
No way!
No way!
Reunion
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT IGARASHI-SENPAI IS MANGA-ARTIST NISHINA-SENSEI'S SUPERVISING EDITOR.
Yeah...
I MEAN, IGARASHI WANTED TO GO INTO SALES.
SHRIEK
SHRIEK
NO, WE DON'T !!
GLARE
IT'S LIKE A JOKE!!
BA-HAH!
WOW! THEY'RE EVEN IN SYNC!
HA! HA! HA!
THEY HAVE QUITE THE CONNECTION, DON'T THEY?
SHINE
HEY, YOU GUYS !!
THANK YOU ALL FOR TAKING THE TIME TO ATTEND !!
HUH?
WHO'S THAT?!
OH, SERINUMA'S BROTHER ...!!
OH, TAKURO-SAN. HELLO!
YOU'RE WORKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT NOW, RIGHT?
SLICK
THAT'S RIGHT. STABILITY IS TRULY NUMBER ONE, YOU GUYS!!
HE OVERDID IT WITH THE HAIR!!

YEAH~!!
So fun!
I'M JUST RELIEVED THAT GUY DIDN'T END UP BEING A TEACHER!!
APPARENTLY HE QUIT HIS JOB ONE DAY, AND NOW HE'S BACK-PACKING AROUND THE WORLD.
TH...THAT'S WAY TOO FREE...
KAZUMA? HE'S IN INDIA RIGHT NOW.
HUH?!
Is he not here yet?
SPEAKING OF BROTHERS, WHERE IS MUTSUMI'S BROTHER...?
OH, QUIET! PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
SOB
WAHHH! KAEEE!
NOOO!
YEAH! SHE'S PROFITING FROM HER HOBBY!
Ha! Ha! Ha!
SERINUMA-SAN MAKES ANIME CHARACTER MERCHANDISE, RIGHT?
MUTSUMI-SENPAI IS WAY MORE SUITED TO BEING A TEACHER. IT'S HIS LIFE CALLING, DON'T YOU THINK?
CREAK
NOW PRESENTING THE BRIDE AND GROOM!
EVERYONE, THANK YOU FOR WAITING.
GOTTA TAKE PICTURES!!
Yeah.
Yeah.
I BET SHE'S BEAUTIFUL.
This time for sure.
OH, I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING SERINUMA-SENPAI IN HER WEDDING DRESS. ♡

キィィィ…
CREAK
EVERY-ONE!
THANK YOU FOR COMING TODAY!!
?!

S... SERI-NUMA?! WHY ARE YOU... I MEAN... TODAY!! OF ALL DAYS!!
IT'S DEJA VU...!!
HUH? WHA?! BUT YOU WERE NORMAL WHEN WE MET THREE MONTHS AGO!
BOOM
HEH HEH! I GUESS I ATE A LITTLE TOO MUCH! ☆
A LITTLE ?!
WELL, MY DOCTOR TOLD ME TO EAT.
HUH? YOUR DOCTOR ?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?! WHAT'S THE MATTER ?!
NO, NO.
RUSTLE
HE SAID THAT I HAVE TO EAT...
BLUSH
...FOR TWO NOW!
WHAAAAAA?!





Welcome to our Wedding
Although the bride ended up looking like a different person altogether...
Nishina-san made this, huh? ♡
So precious!
You made this seating chart, didn't you, Nakano-san?
You're quite talented.
Yeah! It's "Mirage Saga" themed. ♡ And I go by Yamashita now.
Oh, right.
From Kazuma.
I'm glad that I have a cute little sister now. ♡ Congratulations! ♡
A Muffy-chan telegram...!! They're brothers, all right!

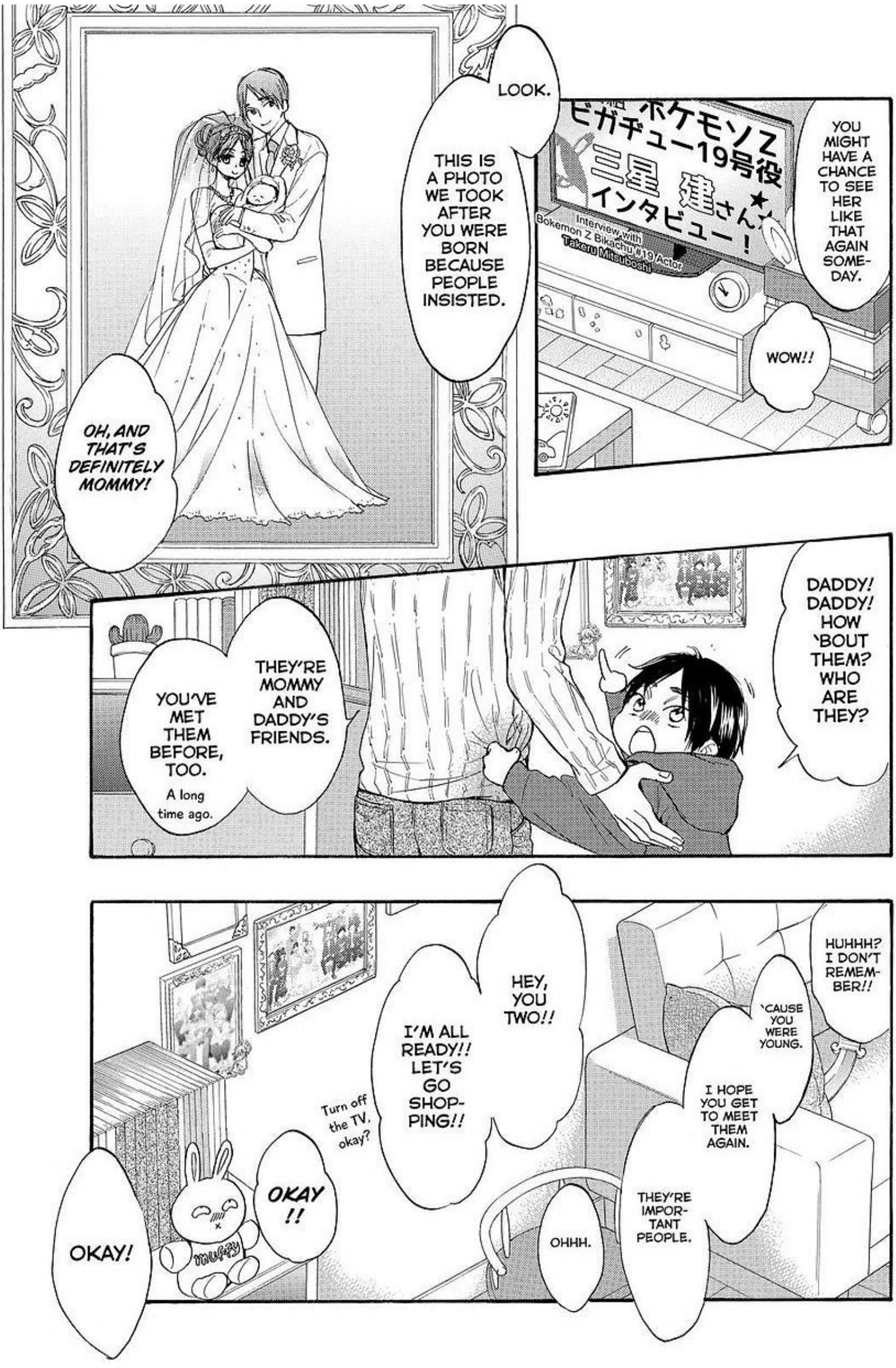
THE HIGH SCHOOL LIFE WE ALL SHARED...
...SEEMS LIKE IT HAPPENED BOTH ONLY YESTERDAY...
...AND A LONG TIME AGO.
HEY, ASUMA-KUN.
YEAH?
CELEBRATING RIGHT NOW...
...WITH EVERYONE GATHERED HERE...
...AND HAVING YOU BY MY SIDE, ASUMA-KUN...
CONGRATS!
CONGRATULATIONS!
I'M SO HAPPY.

CON-
GRATS!
YEAH.
CON-
GRATU-
LATIONS!
I FEEL
THE
SAME
WAY.
THANK
YOU.

I'M SO GLAD TO HAVE KNOWN YOU ALL!!

HEY DADDY.
WHO'S THE HEAVY WOMAN IN THE PICTURE?
HM?
THAT'S YOUR MOMMY.

NO WAY! SHE LOOKS SO DIF-FERENT!!
IT'S REALLY HER.
Just kidding!
AT THAT TIME, SHE TRANS-FORMED SO SHE COULD PROTECT YOU INSIDE HER STOMACH.
HUH?! NO WAY!!
MOMMY CAN TRANS-FORM?! SO COOL!!
Whoa...
HEH HEH.
KUM


LOOK.
THIS IS A PHOTO WE TOOK AFTER YOU WERE BORN BECAUSE PEOPLE INSISTED.
OH, AND THAT'S DEFINITELY MOMMY!
ポケモンZ ビガチュー19号役 三星 建さん★ インタビュー！
Interview with Bokemon Z Bikachu #19 Actor Takeru Mitsuboshi
YOU MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE TO SEE HER LIKE THAT AGAIN SOMEDAY.
WOW!!
DADDY! DADDY! HOW 'BOUT THEM? WHO ARE THEY?
THEY'RE MOMMY AND DADDY'S FRIENDS.
YOU'VE MET THEM BEFORE, TOO.
A long time ago.
HUHHH? I DON'T REMEMBER!!
'CAUSE YOU WERE YOUNG.
I HOPE YOU GET TO MEET THEM AGAIN.
THEY'RE IMPORTANT PEOPLE.
OHHH.
HEY, YOU TWO!!
I'M ALL READY!! LET'S GO SHOPPING!!
Turn off the TV, okay?
OKAY!!
OKAY!
Mufffy

LET'S GO, SHION!
OKAY!
C'MON!
Mirage Saga
THE END